

Marginalia

Write into the margins!

1 Setup

Put something akin to the following at the start of your .typ file:

```
#import "@preview/marginalia:0.2.0" as marginalia: note, notefigure,
wideblock

#show: marginalia.setup.with(
  // inner: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // outer: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // top: 2.5cm,
  // bottom: 2.5cm,
  // book: false,
  // clearance: 12pt,
)
```

Where you can then customize these options to your preferences. Shown here (as comments) are the default values taken if the corresponding keys are unset.●

If book is false, inner and outer correspond to the left and right margins respectively. If book is true, the margins swap sides on even and odd pages. Notes are placed in the outside margin by default.

See the appendix for a more detailed explanation of the [setup\(\)](#) function and its options.

Additionally, I recommend using typst's partial function application feature to customize other aspects of the notes consistently:

```
#let note = note.with(/* options here */)
#let notefigure = notefigure.with(/* same options here */)
```

2 Margin-Notes

By default, the `#note[...]` command places a note to the right/outer margin, like so:○. By giving the argument side: "inner", we obtain a note on the inner (left) margin.◆ If config.book = true, the side will of course be adjusted automatically. It is also possible to pass side: "left" or side: "right" if you want a fixed side even in books.

If ◆ we ■ place □ multiple ▲ notes ▲ in ♥ one ♥ line,● they automatically adjust their positions. Additionally, a dy argument can be passed to shift their initial position by that amount vertically. They may still get shifted around, unless configured otherwise via the [shift](#) parameter of `#note()`.

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● You can also skip the configuration step if you're happy with these defaults, but 15mm is not a lot to write in.

○ This is a note.

They can contain any content, and will wrap within the note column.

◆ Note 1

■ Note 2

□ Note 3

▲ Note 4

△ Note 5

♥ This note was given 15pt dy, but it was shifted more than that to avoid Notes 1–5.

● This note was given 10cm dy and was shifted less than that to stay on the page.

◆ Reversed.

♥ This note was given 15pt dy.

◆ Note from second column.

○ Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

◇ Like so. The lorem-ipsum note was also placed with keep-order.

■ This note has flush numbering.

□ Unnumbered notes "avoid" being shifted if possible, preferring to shift other notes up.

Like this.

17 The `-2pt` in the `#h()` is there because `#note()` inserts a `2pt` space.

Like this one.

18 (the `notecounter` is unaffected by the previous note, as it has `numbering: none`)

♥ Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

♥ Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

● Hey 8.5pt

Notes will shift vertically to avoid other notes, wideblocks, and the top page margin. It will attempt to move one note below a wide-block if there is not enough space above, but if there are multiple notes that would need to be rearranged you must assist by manually setting `dy` such that their initial position is below the wideblock.

Margin notes also work from within most containers such as blocks or `#column()`s. Blah blah.◆ To force the notes to appear in the margin in the same order as they appear in the text, use `#note(keep-order: true)[]`◆ for *all* notes whose relative order is important.

2.1 Markers

The margin notes are decorated with little symbols, which by default hang into the gap. If this is not desired, set `flush-numbering: true` on the note.■

Setting the argument `numbering: none`,□ we obtain notes without icon/number:

To change the markers, you can override the `numbering` function which is used to generate the markers.

Advanced Markers

If a different style is desired for the marker in the text and in the margins, you can use the `note.anchor-numbering` parameter to control the in-text marker:¹⁷

```
#note(
  numbering: (... , i) => text(font: "Inter", weight: 500)[#i#h(0.5em - 2pt)],
  anchor-numbering: (... , i) => super[#i],
)[...]
```

Note that doing this implies `flush-numbering: true`. This is based on the assumption that if you have set two different numbering functions, you want to handle the placement yourself. Non-flush numbers, which are placed, complicate this.

This can also be used to create notes that have an anchor,✚ but no numbering in the note itself.¹⁸

2.2 Styling

Both `note()` and `notefigure()` accept text-style, par-style, and block-style parameters:

- text-style: (size: `5pt`, font: (`"Iosevka Extended"`)) gives ♥
- par-style: (spacing: `20pt`, leading: `-2pt`) gives ♥

The default options here are meant to be as close as possible to the stock footnote style given 11pt text. For other text sizes, set the text-style size to 0.85 times your body text size if you want to match the stock footnotes.

Hey 10pt¹●

¹Hey 8.5pt

block-style

To style the block containing the note body, use the block-style argument.

- block-style: (stroke: (top: (thickness: 0.5pt, dash: "dotted")), outset: (top: 6pt /* clearance is 12pt */), width: 100%) gives:○
- block-style: (fill: oklch(90%, 0.06, 140deg), outset: (left: 10pt, rest: 4pt), width: 100%, radius: 4pt) gives:◆
- block-style: (fill: oklch(90%, 0.06, 140deg), inset: (x: 4pt), outset: (y: 4pt), width: 100%, radius: 4pt) gives:◇

For more advanced use-cases, you can also pass a function as the block-style. It will be called with one argument, either "left" of "right", depending on the side the note will be placed on. Additionally, inside the function context is available if neccessary.■□

- This is a note with a dotted stroke above.

So is this.

◆ This is a note with a green background and flush-numbering: true.

So is this.

- ◇ This is a note with an outset green background.

So is this.

- Purple

```
#let block-style = (side) => {
  if side == "left" {
    (stroke: (left: none, rest: 0.5pt + purple), outset: (left:
marginalia.get-left().far, rest: 4pt))
  } else {
    (stroke: (right: none, rest: 0.5pt + purple), outset: (right:
marginalia.get-right().far, left: 9pt, rest: 4pt))
  }
}
#note(block-style: block-style)[Purple]
#note(side: "inner", block-style: block-style)[Purple 2]
```

3 Wide Blocks

The command #wideblock[...] can be used to wrap content in a wide block which spans into the margin-note-column.

Note: when using an asyymetric page layout with book: true, wideblocks which span across pagebreaks are messy, because there is no way for the wideblock to detect the pagebreak and adjust ist position after it.

- ♥ Unless they are given a dy argument moving them above the block.

▲ Wow!

It is possible to use notes in a wide block:▲▲. They will automatically shift downwards to avoid colliding with the wideblock.♥

#wideblock(side: "inner") [...]: The side option allows extending the block into the inside margin instead. This is analogous to the side option on notes and allows placing notes in their usual column.

▲ Voila.

In this manual, an inner wideblock is used to set the appendix to make it take up fewer pages. This is also why the appendix is no longer using book: true.♥

- ♥ Notes above a wideblock will shift upwards if necessary.

#wideblock(side: "both") [...]: Additionally, wideblocks can extend on both sides, for extra wide content...

4 Figures

4.1 Notefigures

For small figures, you can place them in the margin with #notefigure(). It accepts all arguments figure takes (except



Figure 1: A notefigure.



• Figure 2: A marked notefigure.



• Figure 3: Aligned to top of figure with dy: 0pt.



33 Figure 5: Figure with custom numbering

Figure 6: A figure.



Figure 7: A figure in a wide block.

Figure 8: A figure in a reversed wide block.

placement and scope), plus all arguments note takes (except align-baseline). However, by default it has no marker, and to get a marker like other notes, you must pass numbering: marginalia.note-numbering, it will get a marker like other notes:•

Additionally, the dy argument now takes a relative length, where 100% is the distance between the top of the figure content and the first baseline of the caption. By default, figures have a dy of 0pt - 100%, which results in the caption being aligned horizontally to the text.◦

A label can be attached to the figure using the label argument, as was done here for Figure 2.

Notefigures can also be given side, text-style, par-style and block-style parameters, as demonstrated in Figure 4. Furthermore, the numbering, anchor-numbering, and flush-numbering parameters work as expected.³³

4.2 Large Figures

For larger figures, use the following set and show rules:

```
#set figure(gap: 0pt)
#set figure.caption(position: top)
#show figure.caption.where(position: top): note.with(numbering:none, dy:1em)
```



For wide figures, simply place a figure in a wideblock. The caption gets placed beneath the figure automatically, courtesy of regular wide-block-avoidance.

```
#wideblock(figure(image(..), caption: [A figure in a wide block.]))
```



Figure 9: A figure in an extra-wide wideblock.

Figure 4: Styled figure.

5 Other Tidbits

5.1 Absolute Placement

You can place notes in absolute positions relative to the page using place:

Top

```
#place(top, note(numbering: none, side: "inner")[Top])
#place(bottom, note(numbering: none, side: "inner")[Bottom])
```

To avoid these notes moving about, use `shift: false` (or `shift: "ignore"` if you don't mind overlaps.)

Top (no shift)
Top (no shift, no baseline align)

```
#place(top, note(numbering: none, shift: false)[Top (no shift)])
#place(bottom, note(numbering: none, shift: false)[Bottom (no shift)])
```

By default, notes are aligned to their first baseline. To align the top of the note instead, set `align-baseline` to `false`.

5.2 Headers and Background

This is not (yet) a polished feature and requires to access `marginalia._config.get().book` to read the respective config option. In your documents, consider removing this check and simplifying the `if` a bit.◊

Here's how the headers in this document were made:

◊ Also, please don't `.update()` the `marginalia._config` directly, this can easily break the notes.

```
#set page(header: context {
  marginalia.notecounter.update(0)
  let book = marginalia._config.get().book
  let leftm = marginalia.get-left()
  let rightm = marginalia.get-right()
  if here().page() > 1 {
    wideblock(side: "both", {
      box(width: leftm.width, {
        if not (book) or calc.odd(here().page()) [
          Page
          #counter(page).display("1 of 1", both: true)
        ] else [
          #datetime.today().display(/**/)
        ]
      })
    })
    h(leftm.sep)
    box(width: 1fr, smallcaps[Marginalia])
    h(rightm.sep)
    box(width: rightm.width, {
      if not (book) or calc.odd(here().page()) [
        #datetime.today().display(/**/)
      ] else [
        Page
        #counter(page).display("1 of 1", both: true)
      ]
    })
  })
})
}
```

And here's the code for the lines in the background:■

■ Not that you should copy them, they're mostly here to showcase the columns and help me verify that everything gets placed in the right spot.

```
#set page(background: context {
  let leftm = marginalia.get-left()
  let rightm = marginalia.get-right()
  place(top, dy: marginalia._config.get().top,
    line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(top, dy: marginalia._config.get().top - page.header-ascent,
    line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(bottom, dy: -marginalia._config.get().bottom,
```

bottom

Bottom (no shift)
Bottom (no shift, no baseline al.)

```
    line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%))
  place(dx: leftm.far,
        rect(width: leftm.width, height: 100%, stroke: (x: luma(90%))))
  place(dx: leftm.far + leftm.width + leftm.sep,
        rect(width: 10pt, height: 100%, stroke: (left: luma(90%))))
  place(right, dx: -rightm.far,
        rect(width: rightm.width, height: 100%, stroke: (x: luma(90%))))
  place(right, dx: -rightm.far - rightm.width - rightm.sep,
        rect(width: 10pt, height: 100%, stroke: (right: luma(90%))))
})
```

- This can happen for example with outlines which barely fit/don't fit onto the page.
- ▲ In this manual, for example, it works fine (with warnings) here, ▲ but not on the first page.♥
- ▲ Probably because there aren't many other notes around.

♥ Which is a block-level element

6 Troubleshooting / Known Bugs

- If the document needs multiple passes to figure out page-breaks, □ it can break the note positioning.
 - This can usually be resolved by placing a `#pagebreak()` or `#pagebreak(weak: true)` in an appropriate location.
- Nested notes may or may not work. ▲ In nearly all cases, they seem to lead to a “layout did not converge within 5 attempts” warning, so it is probably best to avoid them if possible.
 - Just use multiple paragraphs in one note, or place multiple notes in the main text instead.
 - If really neccessary, use shift: "ignore" on the nested notes and manually set dy.
- notefigures does not take a flush-numbering parameter, because it is not easily possible for this package to insert the marker *into* the caption ♥ without adding a newline.
- If book is true, wideblocks that break across pages are broken. Sadly there doesn't seem to be a way to detect and react to page-breaks from within a block, so I don't know how to fix this.
- If you encounter anything else which looks like a bug to you, please create an “issue” on GitHub if no-one else has done so already.

♥ Notes on the other side are usually fine though.

7 Thanks

Many thanks go to Nathan Jessurun for their drafting package, which has served as a starting point and was very helpful in figuring out how to position margin-notes.

The wideblock functionality was inspired by the one provided in the tufte-memo template.

Also shout-out to tidy, which was used to produce the appendix.

(This project is not affiliated with <https://marginalia-search.com/>, but that is *also* a cool project.)

A Detailed Documentation of all Exported Symbols

Breaking Changes

0.2.0

- The functions `configure()` and `page-setup()` have been combined into one `setup()` function.

A.1 `get-left`

Returns a dictionary with the keys `far`, `width`, `sep` containing the respective widths of the left margin on the current page. (On both even and odd pages.)

Requires context.

Parameters

`get-left()` → dictionary

A.2 `get-right`

Returns a dictionary with the keys `far`, `width`, `sep` containing the respective widths of the right margin on the current page. (On both even and odd pages.)

Requires context.

Parameters

`get-right()` → dictionary

A.3 `note`

Create a marginnote. Will adjust it's position downwards to avoid previously placed notes, and upwards to avoid extending past the bottom margin.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- `reverse` has been replaced with `note.side`.
→ use ``side: "inner"`` instead of ``reverse: true``
- `numbered` has been replaced with `note.numbering`.
→ use ``numbering: "none"`` instead of ``numbered: false``

Parameters

```
note(  
  numbering: none function string,  
  anchor-numbering: none auto function string,  
  flush-numbering: auto boolean,  
  side: auto "outer" "inner" "left" "right",  
  dy: length,  
  align-baseline: boolean,  
  keep-order: boolean,  
  shift: boolean auto "avoid" "ignore",  
  text-style: dictionary,  
  par-style: dictionary,  
  block-style: dictionary function,  
  {body}: content  
)
```

Functions:

- `get-left()`
- `get-right()`
- `note()`
- `note-numbering()`
- `notefigure()`
- `setup()`
- `wideblock()`

Variables:

- `notecounter`
- `note-markers`
- `note-markers-alternating`

Mostly internal.

Mostly internal.

numbering: note-numbering `none` or `function` or `string`

Function or numbering-string to generate the note markers from the notecounter. If none, will not step the notecounter.

Examples:

- `(..i) => super(numbering("1", ..i))` for superscript numbers
- `(..i) => super(numbering("a", ..i))` for superscript letters
- `marginalia.note-numbering.with(repeat: false, markers: ())` for small blue numbers

anchor-numbering: `auto` `none` or `auto` or `function` or `string`

Used to generate the marker for the anchor (i.e. the one in the surrounding text)

- If `auto`, will use the given note-numbering.

flush-numbering: `auto` `auto` or `boolean`

Disallow note markers hanging into the whitespace.

- If `auto`, acts like `false` if note.anchor-numbering is `auto`.

side: `auto` `auto` or `"outer"` or `"inner"` or `"left"` or `"right"`

Which side to place the note. `auto` defaults to `"outer"`. In non-book documents, `"outer"/"inner"` are equivalent to `"right"/"left"` respectively.

dy: `0pt` `length`

Initial vertical offset of the note. Note may get shifted still to avoid other notes.

align-baseline: `true` `boolean`

Whether to align the baselines or not.

- If `false`, the top of the note is aligned with the main-text baseline.

keep-order: `false` `boolean`

Notes with `keep-order: true` are not re-ordered relative to one another.

shift: `auto` `boolean` or `auto` or `"avoid"` or `"ignore"`

Whether the note may get shifted around to avoid other notes.

- `true`: The note may shift to avoid other notes, wide-blocks and the top/bottom margins.
- `false`: The note is placed exactly where it appears, and other notes may shift to avoid it.
- `"avoid"`: The note is only shifted if shifting other notes is not sufficient to avoid a collision. E.g. if it would collide with a wideblock or a note with `shift: false`.
- `"ignore"`: Like `false`, but other notes do not try to avoid it.
- `auto: true` if numbered, `"avoid"` otherwise.

text-style: (size: `9.35pt`, style: `"normal"`, weight: `"regular"`)
dictionary

Will be used to `set` the text style.

par-style: (spacing: `1.2em`, leading: `0.5em`, hanging-indent: `0pt`)
dictionary

Will be used to `set` the par style.

block-style: (width: 100%) dictionary or function

Will be passed to the block containing the note body. If this is a function, it will be called with “left” or “right” as its argument, and the result is passed to the block.

A.4 note-numbering

Format note marker

Parameters

```
note-numbering(
  markers: array(string),
  repeat: boolean,
  (...),
  (number): int
) → content
```

markers: note-markers-alternating array(string)

```
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(markers: note-
markers, i)
]\
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(markers: note-
markers-alternating, i)
]
```



repeat: true boolean

Whether to (true) loop over the icons, or (false) continue with numbers after icons run out.

```
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(repeat: true, i)
]\
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(repeat: false, i)
]
```



A.5 notefigure

Creates a figure in the margin.

Parameters numbering, anchor-numbering, flush-numbering, side, keep-order, shift, text-style, par-style, and block-style work the same as for `note()`.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- reverse has been replaced with `notefigure.side`.
→ use `side: "inner"` instead of `reverse: true`
- numbered has been replaced with `notefigure.numbering`.
→ use `numbering: marginalia.note-numbering` instead of `numbered: true`

Parameters

```
notefigure(
  numbering: none function string,
  anchor-numbering: none auto function string,
  flush-numbering: auto boolean,
  side: auto "outer" "inner" "left" "right",
  dy: relative length,
  keep-order: boolean,
  shift: boolean auto "avoid" "ignore",
  text-style: dictionary,
  par-style: dictionary,
  block-style: dictionary function,
  show-caption: function,
  gap: length,
  label: none label,
  (content): content,
  (..figureargs): arguments
) → content
```

numbering: none none or function or string

Same as `note.numbering`, but with different default value.

anchor-numbering: auto none or auto or function or string

Used to generate the marker for the anchor (i.e. the one in the surrounding text)

- If `auto`, will use the given `notefigure.numbering`.

flush-numbering: auto auto or boolean

Disallow note markers hanging into the whitespace.

- If `auto`, acts like `false` if `note.anchor-numbering` is `auto`.

side: auto auto or "outer" or "inner" or "left" or "right"

Same as `note.side`: Which side to place the note. `auto` defaults to `"outer"`. In non-book documents, `"outer"/"inner"` are equivalent to `"right"/"left"` respectively.

dy: 0pt - 100% relative length

How much to shift the note. `100%` corresponds to the height of content + gap + the first baseline.

Thus `dy: 0pt - 100%` aligns the text and caption baselines.

block-style: (width: 100%) dictionary or function

Will be passed to the block containing the note body (this contains the entire figure). If this is a function, it will be called with "left" or "right" as its argument, and the result is passed to the block.

```

show-caption: (number, caption) => {
  number
  caption.supplement
  [ ]
  caption.counter.display(caption.numbering)
  caption.separator
  caption.body
} function

```

A function with two arguments, the number and the caption. Will be called as the caption show rule.

If `notefigure.numbering` is `none`, number will be `none`.

gap: `0.55em` **length**

Pass-through to `#figure()`, but used to adjust the vertical position.

label: `none` `none` or `label` A label to attach to the figure.

{content} **content** Positional

The figure content, e.g. an image. Pass-through to `#figure()`, but used to adjust the vertical position.

{..figureargs} **arguments** Positional Pass-through to `#figure()`.
(E.g. caption)

A.6 setup

This will update the marginalia config and setup the page with the provided config options. (This means this will insert a pagebreak.)

Use as

```
#show: marginalia.setup.with(/* options here */)
```

The default values for the margins have been chosen such that they match the default typst margins for a4. It is strongly recommended to change at least one of either inner or outer to be wide enough to actually contain text.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- numbering has been replaced with `note.numbering/notefigure.numbering`.
→ set ``numbering: /**/`` directly on your notes instead of via `setup()`.
Use `#let note = note.with(numbering: /**/)` for consistency.
- flush-numbers has been replaced by `note.flush-numbering`.
→ set ``flush-numbering: true`` directly on your notes instead of via `setup()`.
Use `#let note = note.with(flush-numbering: /**/)` for consistency.

0.2.0

- This function does no longer apply the configuration partially, but will reset all unspecified options to the default. Additionally, it replaces the `page-setup()` function that was needed previously and is no longer called `configure()`

Parameters

```

setup(
  inner: dictionary,
  outer: dictionary,
  top: length,
  bottom: length,
  book: boolean,
  clearance: length,
  (body): content
)

```

inner: (far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm) dictionary

Inside/left margins.

- far: Distance between edge of page and margin (note) column.
- width: Width of the margin column.
- sep: Distance between margin column and main text column.

The page inside/left margin should equal far + width + sep.

If partial dictionary is given, it will be filled up with defaults.

outer: (far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm) dictionary

Outside/right margins. Analogous to inner.

top: 2.5cm length Top margin.

bottom: 2.5cm length Bottom margin.

book: false boolean

- If **true**, will use inside/outside margins, alternating on each page.
- If **false**, will use left/right margins with all pages the same.

clearance: 12pt length

Minimal vertical distance between notes and to wide blocks.

A.7 wideblock

Creates a block that extends into the outside/right margin.

Note: This does not handle page-breaks sensibly. If `config.book = false`, this is not a problem, as then the margins on all pages are the same. However, when using alternating page margins, a multi-page wideblock will not work properly. To be able to set this appendix in a many-page wideblock, this code was used:

```

#show: marginalia.setup.with(..config, book: false)
#wideblock(side: "inner")[...]

```

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- reverse and double have been replaced with `wideblock.side`.
 - use ``side: "inner"`` instead of ``reverse: true``
 - use ``side: "both"`` instead of ``double: true``

Parameters

```
wideblock(  
  side: auto "outer" "inner" "left" "right" "both",  
  (body): content  
) → content
```

side: auto auto or "outer" or "inner" or "left" or "right" or "both"

Which side to extend into. auto defaults to "outer". In non-book documents, "outer"/"inner" are equivalent to "right"/"left" respectively.

A.8 notecounter counter

The counter used for the note icons.

Mostly internal.

If you use `note-numbering()` without `note-numbering.repeat`, it is recommended you reset this occasionally, e.g. per heading or per page.

notecounter.update(1)

A.9 note-markers

Icons to use for note markers.

("♦", "●", "■", "▲", "♥", "◇", "○", "□", "△", "♡")

A.10 note-markers-alternating

Icons to use for note markers, alternating filled/outlined.

("●", "○", "♦", "◇", "■", "□", "▲", "△", "♥", "♡")