

# m\_utl\_chg\_special\_chars.sas File Reference

## Utilities

Utility macro to replace special chars into normal characters

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### Description

This program works in mixed unicode environments. It replaces special characters inline into readable characters to avoid conversion errors. The macro can be executed in the context of either a macro call or it generates code to be executed in the context of a data step. This is controlled by the CONTEXT macro parameter. The valid values for CONTEXT are: MACRO or DATASTEP. At present the following characters are replaced by the routine:

Ä / ä -> Ae / ae  
Ö / ö -> Oe / oe  
Ü / ü -> Ue / ue  
ß -> ss

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### Version

20.1.09

### Link

<https://github.com/paul-canals/toolbox>

## Parameters

Input	help	Parameter, if set (Help or ?) to print the Help information in the log. In all other cases this parameter should be left out from the macro call.
Input	in_var	Input column name. This can be a data step attribute or a proc sql column definition. The default value is: <code>_NONE_</code> .
Input	context	Indicator [DATASTEP MACRO] to select the in which the macro is to be run in. The default value is: <code>MACRO</code> .
Input	colnm	Alias of the <code>IN_VAR</code> parameter.
Input	debug	Boolean [Y N] parameter to provide verbose mode information. The default value is: <code>N</code> .

## Returns

- Column value string with special characters replaced

## Calls

- [m\\_utl\\_print\\_message.sas](#)
- [m\\_utl\\_print\\_mtrace.sas](#)

## Usage

Example 1: Show help information:

```
%m_utl_chg_special_chars(?)
```

Example 2: Replace special characters (SAS dataset context):

```
proc print data=SASHELP.class;
  where name = 'Janet';
run;

data WORK.class;
  set SASHELP.class;
  if name eq 'Janet'
    then name=tranwrd(name,'a','ä');
run;

proc print data=WORK.class;
  where name = 'Jänet';
run;

data WORK.class_replaced;
  set WORK.class;
  name=%m_utl_chg_special_chars(colnm=name,context=D,debug=Y);
run;

proc print data=WORK.class_replaced;
  where name = 'Jaenet';
run;
```

Example 3: Replace special characters (SAS macro context):

```
%let string = Jänet iß a female stüdent;

%let result=
  %m_utl_chg_special_chars(
    in_var = &string.
    , context = M
    , debug   = Y
    );
%put &=result.;
```

Example 3: Replace special characters (SAS dataset context):

```
%let result=;
data _null_;
  string = "Jänet iß a female stüdent";
  call symput('result', %m_utl_chg_special_chars(colnm=string,context=M,debug=Y));
run;
%put &=result.;
```

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