

MERP - a simple NRO macro set

MERP seeks to simplify the process of formatting documents in NRO by providing a simple macro set with sensible defaults and mnemonic commands. By reducing the formatting commands to single lines, MERP will hopefully stay out of the way. To use the MERP macro set, simply put ".so MERP.NRO" at the start of your document. The MERP.NRO file must be in the same directory as the your document (unfortunately) and do not enclose MERP.NRO in quotations of any kind. What's included in MERP? We will now go through the entire command set alphabetically and explain what each does.

cs - centered section, boldface, and with space above a below to pad it (will be referred to as padded for the rest of the document)

ct - centered title, boldface, padded, and begins a new page

hi - hanging indent for paragraphs, "n" spaces leftmost of the rest of the paragraph, by which n is the argument supplied (ex: "hi 4" indents 4 spaces). The default is 2, which makes it identical to ".pn" (paragraph numbering) in form. The other paragraph commands will line up with the body indent, not the hang

ip - indented paragraph, 4 spaces rightmost of the rest of the paragraph

nc - numbered and centered section, boldface, and padded. No new page is started. For a new page, see ".ct" (centered title)

Note: the number register used for ".ns" is different than that used for ".nc", to allow for more flexibility

nl - numbered list

Note: this is not a limiter/delimiter style macro, and as such, ".nl" is required for each entry in the list. To reset the counter, see ".rl" (reset list)

np - numbered paragraph, which places a boldface number in line with the rest of the paragraph, indenting the text slightly to achieve this. For a hanging number and no indent, see ".pn" (paragraph numbers)

ns - numbered section, boldface, padded, and left-aligned

nt - numbered title, boldface, centered, padded, and begins a new page

pg - page, which sets up page length, header and footer spacing, right margin and left indent, and minimum number of lines needed to prevent a page break

pn - paragraph numbering, contrasted with ".np" (numbered paragraph) does not use boldface numbers, instead placing a number to the left of an un-indented paragraph

rl - reset list, which sets the list register back to 1

Note: the ".r*" commands are reset commands, and follow the format of replacing the first letter of the command one wishes to reset the numbering for with an "r", making them easy to remember

- rn - reset (paragraph) numbering, which sets the paragraph numbering register back to 1
- rp - reset (numbered) paragraphs, which sets the paragraph numbering register back to 1
- se - section, boldface, un-numbered, left-aligned, and padded
- up - un-indented paragraph, which uses the default indent

Additional Notes

For NRO source files, I have adopted the practice of employing the .NRO extension, so as not to confuse them with any other type of file. For the output files, which may be easily viewed using MORE or LESS, I prefer a .MAN extension, to call back to nroff's use in manpages.