

# LaTeX/Rules and Struts

## Rules

The `\rule` command in normal use produces a simple black box:

```
\rule[depth]{width}{height}
```

The `depth`, `width` and `height` parameters are explained in the Boxes chapter.

Here is an example:

```
\rule{3mm}{.1pt}%  
\rule[-1mm]{5mm}{1cm}%  
\rule{3mm}{.1pt}%  
\rule[1mm]{1cm}{5mm}%  
\rule{3mm}{.1pt}
```



This is useful for drawing vertical and horizontal lines.

## Struts

A special case is a rule with no width but a certain height. In professional typesetting, this is called a *strut*. It is used to guarantee that an element on a page has a certain minimal height. You could use it in a tabular environment or in boxes to make sure a row has a certain minimum height.

In LaTeX a strut is defined as

```
\rule[-.3\baselineskip]{0pt}{\baselineskip}
```

## Stretched rules

LaTeX provides the `\hrulefill` command, which work like a stretched horizontal space. See the Lengths chapter.

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