

Next: [PKG_ADD and PKG_DEL Directives](#), Previous: [The DESCRIPTION File](#), Up: [Creating Packages](#)
[\[Contents\]](#)[\[Index\]](#)

37.4.2 The INDEX File

The optional *INDEX* file provides a categorical view of the functions in the package. This file has a very simple format

- Lines beginning with '#' are comments.
- The first non-comment line should look like this

```
toolbox >> Toolbox name
```

- Lines beginning with an alphabetical character indicates a new category of functions.
- Lines starting with a white space character indicate that the function names on the line belong to the last mentioned category.

The format can be summarized with the following example:

```
# A comment
toolbox >> Toolbox name
Category Name 1
  function1 function2 function3
  function4
Category Name 2
  function2 function5
```

If you wish to refer to a function that users might expect to find in your package but is not there, providing a work around or pointing out that the function is available elsewhere, you can use:

```
fn = workaround description
```

This workaround description will not appear when listing functions in the package with *pkg describe* but they will be published in the HTML documentation online. Workaround descriptions can use any HTML markup, but keep in mind that it will be enclosed in a bold-italic environment. For the special case of:

```
fn = use <code>alternate expression</code>
```

the bold-italic is automatically suppressed. You will need to use *<code>* even in references:

```
fn = use <a href="someothersite.html"><code>fn</code></a>
```

Sometimes functions are only partially compatible, in which case you can list the non-compatible cases separately. To refer to another function in the package, use *<f>fn</f>*. For example:

```
eig (a, b) = use <f>qz</f>
```

Since sites may have many missing functions, you can define a macro rather than typing the same link over and over again.

```
$id = expansion
```

defines the macro *id*. You can use *\$id* anywhere in the description and it will be expanded. For example:

```
$TSA = see <a href="link_to_spctools">SPC Tools</a>  
arccov = $TSA <code>armcv</code>
```

id is any string of letters, numbers and `_`.

Next: [PKG_ADD and PKG_DEL Directives](#), Previous: [The DESCRIPTION File](#), Up: [Creating Packages](#)
[\[Contents\]](#)[\[Index\]](#)