

# Documentation for poster.tex/poster.sty

## Posters and banners with Generic T<sub>E</sub>X

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poster.tex/poster.sty contains the macro

```
\poster{stuff}
```

for making posters and banners. *stuff* is processed in restricted horizontal mode (i.e., `\hbox` or “LR-mode”) and is then printed on as many sheets of paper as are needed. You can then construct the poster or banner by trimming and piecing together the sheets of paper.

You can also write

```
\Poster stuff\endPoster
```

and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X users can write

```
\begin{Poster} stuff\end{Poster}
```

Here are a few details:

- Use a `\vbox` or L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X’s `minipage` or `\parbox` in *stuff* if you want to include vertical mode material. For more help with LR-boxes, see `fancybox.sty`, available from archives everywhere.
- Don’t worry about margins, headers or footers; `\poster` ignores output routines entirely.
- *stuff* can contain `\catcode` changes, such as verbatim environments.

If you want to use your regular output routines, and have `poster.tex` print out each page of your document as a poster, then instead put the command

```
\PosterPage
```

towards the beginning of your document, or in the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X preamble. Each page is printed without its margins, but with the headers and footers, if any. (You can print out your whole dissertation on 8 × 10-foot pages.) With `\PosterPage`, you do not have to worry about LR-boxes.

Whichever method you use, it is up to you to make everything big. The easiest way is to set TeX's `\mag` parameters (to an integer equal to 1000 times the magnification factor, or to `\magstephalf`, or to `\magstepn`, where  $n$  is 1, ..., 5). You may need to generate big bitmaps if using bitmapped fonts (e.g., TeX's usual Metafont fonts), rather than scalable outline fonts (e.g., PostScript fonts). Using `\magstepn` minimizes the need for extra bitmaps.

`\poster`, `\Poster` and `\PosterPage` use the following parameters:

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Default</i>
<code>paperwidth</code>	<i>dim</i>	8.5in
<code>paperheight</code>	<i>dim</i>	11in
<code>imagewidth</code>	<i>dim</i>	7.5in
<code>imageheight</code>	<i>dim</i>	10in
<code>landscape</code>	true/false	false
<code>hcenter</code>	true/false	false
<code>vcenter</code>	true/false	false
<code>crop</code>	none/corners/full	corners
<code>clip</code>	none/pstricks	none

You can include parameter changes as a list of *key=value* pairs in an optional argument to `\poster`, `\Poster` or `\PosterPage`, enclosed in square brackets. E.g.,

```
\poster[clip=pstricks,hcenter=true]{foo}
```

No extraneous spaces, please.

You can also redefine the parameters using `\def` or LaTeX's `\renewcommand`. For parameter `foo`, you should redefine `\POSTERfoo`. E.g., the next example is like the last one:

```
\def\POSTERclip{pstricks}
\def\POSTERhcenter{true}
\poster{foo}
```

This is mainly of interest when developing your own custom `\poster` command or `poster.tex` file.

Here are some comments on the parameters:

- Don't adjust the `paper` and `image` dimensions for your document's magnification (and don't use TeX's `true` dimensions). `poster.tex` does this for you. (That is, set the `paper` and `image` dimensions to the actual values you want for the output.)

- Most printers cannot print right up to the edge of the paper. That is why the `imagewidth` and `imageheight` should be smaller than the `paperwidth` and `paperheight`. The default values are good for printing on 8.5in by 11in paper in portrait mode with one-half inch margins.
- Setting `landscape` to `true` is just a convenient way to switch the `height` and `width` parameters. You still have to take care of printing your document in landscape mode. E.g., with Rokicki's `dvips`, use

```
\special{landscape}
```

For other dvi driver's, consult the documentation.

- Setting `hcenter` and `vcenter` to `true` causes the image to be centered horizontally and vertically, respectively, in the total number of pages that are printed. E.g., when `vcenter` is `true`, extra space is added to the top of the first row of pages and to the bottom of the last row of pages.
- The `crop` parameter controls the crop marks, to help you trim each page to size. When `crop` equals `full`, you get crop marks along the full length of all four sides.
- Setting `clip` to `pstricks` causes each page to be clipped to the size of the image (rather than having the image overlap in the margins on each page), but this only works if you have loaded the PSTricks package.

The file `poster1.tex` contains the following sample of a framed poster with a whole page of text:

```
\documentstyle[poster]{article}

\mag\magstep5 % Magnification of 1.2^5 (roughly 2.5)
% Use 'true' dimensions below for magnified values.

\begin{document}

\begin{Poster}[vcenter=true,hcenter=true]
  \setlength{\fboxsep}{.8truein}%
  \setlength{\fboxrule}{.1truein}%
  \fbox{\begin{minipage}{11.1truein}
    stuff
  \end{minipage}}%
\end{Poster}

\end{document}
```

The file `poster2.tex` contain the following sample of a banner in landscape mode. `ptmr` is meant to be the name of the Times-Roman PostScript font, if your dvi driver supports such a thing.

```
\font\bigroman=ptmr at 7.5in
\bigroman
\poster[vcenter=true,landscape=true]{Animals}
```

## Changes

**V1.0, 13 May 1993** Added `\PosterPage`.

**V0.93, 11 Feb 1993** First stable release.