

## Example for thumbs

This example demonstrates the most common uses of package `thumbs`, v1.1d as of 2026-01-18. The used options were

```
linefill=dots, thumblink=rule, minheight={47pt}, height=auto, width=auto,
distance={2mm}, topthumbmargin={auto}, bottomthumbmargin={auto},
eventxtindent={5pt}, oddtxtexdent={5pt}, evenmarkindent={0pt}, oddmarkexdent={0pt},
evenprintvoffset={0pt}, leftindexruleplus={1em}, txtcentered=false,
nophantomsection=false, plainthumbsoverview=false, verbose=true, final=true, and
hidethumbs=false.
```

These are the default options, except `leftindexruleplus={1em}` (default: `0pt`) and `verbose=true`.

If package `crop` was loaded, options `ignorehoffset=true` and `ignorevoffset=true` were passed to the `thumbs` package, otherwise `ignorehoffset=false` and `ignorevoffset=false`.

Options `frame` and `frameinnercolor` were not used.

The obsolete options `pagecolor` (instead the `pagecolor` package is used), `evenindent` (was replaced by `eventxtindent`), and `oddexdent` (was replaced by `oddtxtexdent`) were not used.

For more details please see the documentation!

**Hyperlinks or not:** If the `hyperref` package is loaded, the references in the overview page for the thumb marks are also hyperlinked (except when option `thumblink=none` is used).

**For testing purpose pages 60f. have been completely coloured!**  
Better exclude those two pages from printing...

Some thumb mark texts are too large for the thumb mark by intention (especially when the paper size and therefore also the thumb mark size is decreased). When option `width={autoauto}` would be used, the thumb mark width would be automatically increased. Please see page 24 for details!

For printing this example to another format of paper (e.g. A4) it is necessary to add the according option (e.g. `a4paper`) to the document class and recompile it! (In that case the thumb marks column change will occur at another point, of course.) With paper format equal to document format the document can be printed without adapting the size, like e.g. “shrink to page”. That would add a white border around the document and by moving the thumb marks from the edge of the paper they no longer appear at the side of the stack of paper. It is also necessary to use a printer capable of printing up to the border of the sheet of paper. Alternatively it is possible after the printing to cut the paper to the right size. While performing this manually is probably quite cumbersome, printing houses use paper, which is slightly larger than the desired format, and afterwards cut it to format.

At the first page no thumb mark was used, but we want to begin with thumb marks at the first page, therefore a

```
\addtitlethumb{Frontmatter}{0}{white}{gray}{FirstPage}
```

was used at the beginning of this page. This does not place a thumb mark at that page, but the pagenumber and link-target in the Table of Thumbs point to the first page. The label `FirstPage` needs to be placed manually on the first page, of course! If manually no label can be placed on the first page, the label `pagesLTS.0` from the `pagesLTS` package (needs to be loaded explicitly!) can be used.

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To include an overview page for the thumb marks,

```
\addthumbsoverviewtocontents{section}{Thumb marks overview}%
\thumbsoverview{Table of Thumbs}%
```

is used, where `\addthumbsoverviewtocontents` adds the thumb marks overview page to the table of contents. (“Edge index” would be the correct/formal term, see the Introduction in the manual.)

Generally it is desirable to have a hyperlink from the thumbs overview page to lead to the thumb mark and not to some earlier place. Therefore automatically a `\phantomsection` is placed before each thumb mark. But for example when using the thumb mark after a `\chapter{...}` command, it is probably nicer to have the link point at the top of that chapter’s title (instead of the line below it). The automatic placing of the `\phantomsection` can be disabled either globally by using option `nophantomsection`, or locally for the next thumb mark by the command `\thumbnophantom`. (When disabled globally, still manual use of `\phantomsection` is possible.)

Frontmatter .....	1	0
First section.....	11	1 <sup>st</sup>
Second section .....	15	2
Third section.....	16	3
Still third section.....	17	3b
Another heading .....	24	Small text
Huge Text paragraph.....	24	Huge Text
Huge Text.....	24	Huge Text
Huge Bold Text .....	24	HBT
xcolor .....	28	xcolor
A mark .....	29	A
B mark.....	30	B



C mark ..... 31

**C**

1/1.955 83 EUR ..... 32

**D**

E mark ..... 34

**E**

F mark ..... 54

**F**

G mark ..... 55

**G**



New thumb marks column ..... 56

*NC*

H mark ..... 58

**H**

Those were the overview pages for the thumb marks.

## 1 The first section

```
\addthumb{First section}{%
\space\Huge{\textbf{$1\textsuperscript{st}$}}}{yellow}{green}
```

A thumb mark is added for this section. The parameters are: title for the thumb mark, the text to be displayed in the thumb mark (choose your own format), the colour of the text in the thumb mark, and the background colour of the thumb mark (parameters in this order).

Now for some pages of “content”...

1st

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetuer id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

1st

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

## 2 The second section

For this section, the text to be displayed in the thumb mark was set to

`\Huge{\textbf{\arabic{section}}}`

i.e. the number of the section will be displayed (huge & bold).

Let us change the thumb mark on a page with an even number:

2

### 3 The third section

No problem!

And you do not need to have a section to add a thumb:

This is still the third section, but there is a new thumb mark.  
On the other hand, you can even get rid of the thumb marks for some page(s):

3b

The command

`\stopthumb`

was used here. Until another `\addthumb` (with parameters) or

`\continuethumb`

is used, there will be no more thumb marks.

Still no thumb marks.

Still no thumb marks.

Still no thumb marks.

Thumb mark continued (unchanged).

3b

Thumb mark continued (unchanged).

**3b**

Time for another thumb,  
and another.

“Huge Text” is too wide for the thumb mark. When option `width={autoauto}` would be used, the thumb mark width would be automatically increased. Now the text is either split over two lines (try `Huge\nline Text` for another format) or (in case `Huge~Text` is used) is written over the border of the thumb mark. When the text is too wide for the thumb mark and cannot be split, LATEX might nevertheless place the text into the next line. By this the text is placed too low. Adding a `\protect\vspace*{- some length }` to the text could help, for example

```
\addthumb{Huge Text}{\protect\vspace*{-3pt}\Huge{Huge~Text}}....
```

When there is more than one thumb mark at one page, this is also no problem.



Some text

HBT

Some text

**HBT**

Some text

HBT

## 4 xcolor

It is probably a good idea to have a look at the `xcolor` package and use other colours than used in this example.

(About automatically increasing the thumb mark width to the thumb mark text width please see the note at page 24.)

**xcolor**

I just need to add further thumb marks to get them reaching the bottom of the page. Generally the vertical size of the thumb marks is set to the value given in the `height` option. If it is `auto`, the size of the thumb marks is decreased, so that they fit all on one page. But when they get smaller than `minheight`, instead of decreasing their size further, a new thumbs column is started (which will happen here).

A

Another thumb mark.

B

There! A new thumb column was started automatically!

On the one hand you can, of course, keep the colour for more than one thumb mark. On the other hand you can change the colour of an existing thumb mark, shown at page 34f.

I am just adding further thumb marks.

If you are curious why the thumb mark between “C mark” and “E mark” has not been named “D mark” but “1/1.955 83 EUR”:

$$1 \text{ DM} = 1 \text{ D Mark} = 1 \text{ Deutsche Mark} = \frac{1}{1.955\,83} \text{ €} = 1/1.955\,83 \text{ Euro} = 1/1.955\,83 \text{ EUR}.$$

D

Just a page.

D

As announced above, it is not only possible to keep the colour for more than one thumb mark, but also to change the colour(s) and the text of an existing thumb mark. Here a thumb mark added with

```
\addthumb{Name}{\protect\thumbchangingtext}{textchangingcolour}{%
markchangingcolour}
```

appears as red text “E” on green background, but really it is not `red` but `textchangingcolour` (which was defined as `red`) and not `green` but `markchangingcolour` (which was defined as `green`). Also the text of a thumb mark can be changed. Here `thumbchangingtext` was used as text, which was defined as `thethumbchangingtextE`, which was predefined in the preamble:

```
\DeclareRobustCommand{\thethumbchangingtextE}{\Huge{\textbf{E}}}
```

Some pages(s) later:

```
\xdef\thetextchangingcolour{blue}%
\colorlet{textchangingcolour}{\thetextchangingcolour}%

\xdef\themarkchangingcolour{yellow}%
\colorlet{markchangingcolour}{\themarkchangingcolour}%

\gdef\thumbchangingtext{\thethumbchangingtexte}%
```

And here the thumb mark still uses `textchangingcolour` and `markchangingcolour`, but instead of `red` and `green` those have been redefined to `blue` and `yellow`. `\thumbchangingtext` was still used as text, but redefined as `\thethumbchangingtexte`, which was predefined in the preamble:

```
\DeclareRobustCommand{\thethumbchangingtexte}{\Huge{\textbf{e}}}
```

Instead of `\thumbchangingtext` also some variable like `\thepage` can be used. For the thumb marks overview page(s) it must be decided which colour(s) and text to use and the according definitions have to be made before that page/those pages! Otherwise inconsistencies or even “`undefined`”-errors would result.

(This page was intentionally left blank.)

e

To prevent inconsistencies between the different thumb mark overviews, we redefine `textchangingcolour` to `red`, `markchangingcolour` to `green`, and `\thumbchangingtext` to `\thethumbchangingtextE` again here.



E

BJORN VICTOR suggested to use thumb marks consisting only of frames instead of filled rectangles. Options `frame` and `frameinnercolor` were introduced to accomplish this. While these options have not been used in this example, it is possible to trick L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X into believing that they had been used. (Do not use this for a regular document!) This is just for demonstrating how a thumb mark consisting just of a frame with 2 pt thick lines would look like



on left and right pages.

E

Now let us restore the filled thumb marks again  
and then have a look at \thumbsoverviewverso:

E

Frontmatter .....	1	0
First section.....	11	1 <sup>st</sup>
Second section .....	15	2
Third section.....	16	3
Still third section.....	17	3b
Another heading .....	24	Small text
Huge Text paragraph.....	24	Huge Text
Huge Text.....	24	Huge Text
Huge Bold Text .....	24	HBT
xcolor .....	28	xcolor
A mark .....	29	A
B mark.....	30	B

Frontmatter .....	1
-------------------	---

# 1<sup>st</sup>

First section .....	11
---------------------	----

# 2

Second section .....	15
----------------------	----

# 3

Third section .....	16
---------------------	----

# 3b

Still third section .....	17
---------------------------	----

Small  
text

Another heading .....	24
-----------------------	----

Huge  
Text

Huge Text paragraph .....	24
---------------------------	----

Huge Text

Huge Text .....	24
-----------------	----

**HBT**

Huge Bold Text .....	24
----------------------	----

**xcolor**

xcolor .....	28
--------------	----

# A

A mark .....	29
--------------	----

# B

B mark .....	30
--------------	----

C mark ..... 31

**C**

1/1.955 83 EUR ..... 32

**D**

E mark ..... 34

**E**

F mark ..... 54

**F**

G mark ..... 55

**G**

<b>C</b>	C mark .....	31
<b>D</b>	1/1.955 83 EUR .....	32
<b>E</b>	E mark .....	34
<b>F</b>	F mark .....	54
<b>G</b>	G mark .....	55

New thumb marks column ..... 56

*NC*

H mark ..... 58

**H**

*NC*

New thumb marks column.....56

**H**

H mark ..... 58

And, of course, also at \thumbsoverviewdouble:

A red square containing the letter E.

Frontmatter .....	1
-------------------	---

# 1<sup>st</sup>

First section .....	11
---------------------	----

# 2

Second section .....	15
----------------------	----

# 3

Third section .....	16
---------------------	----

# 3b

Still third section .....	17
---------------------------	----

Small  
text

Another heading .....	24
-----------------------	----

Huge  
Text

Huge Text paragraph .....	24
---------------------------	----

Huge Text

Huge Text .....	24
-----------------	----

**HBT**

Huge Bold Text .....	24
----------------------	----

**xcolor**

xcolor .....	28
--------------	----

# A

A mark .....	29
--------------	----

# B

B mark .....	30
--------------	----

Frontmatter .....	1	0
First section.....	11	1 <sup>st</sup>
Second section .....	15	2
Third section.....	16	3
Still third section.....	17	3b
Another heading .....	24	Small text
Huge Text paragraph.....	24	Huge Text
Huge Text.....	24	Huge Text
Huge Bold Text .....	24	HBT
xcolor .....	28	xcolor
A mark .....	29	A
B mark.....	30	B

<b>C</b>	C mark .....	31
<b>D</b>	1/1.955 83 EUR .....	32
<b>E</b>	E mark .....	34
<b>F</b>	F mark .....	54
<b>G</b>	G mark .....	55

C mark ..... 31

**C**

1/1.955 83 EUR ..... 32

**D**

E mark ..... 34

**E**

F mark ..... 54

**F**

G mark ..... 55

**G**

*NC*

New thumb marks column.....56

**H**

H mark ..... 58

New thumb marks column ..... 56

*NC*

H mark ..... 58

**H**

I am just adding further thumb marks.

F

Some text.

G

There! A new thumb column was started manually!

NC

Some text.

I just added another thumb mark.

H

The following two pages are completely coloured in green.

H

Some faulty, outdated version of a pdf-viewer sometimes (for the same document!) added a white line at the bottom and right side of the document when presenting it. This did not change the printed version. To test for this problem, this doublepage has been completely coloured. (Probably better exclude these two pages from printing!)

HEIKO OBERDIEK wrote at Tue, 26 Apr 2011 14:13:29 +0200 in the comp.text.tex newsgroup (see e.g. <https://groups.google.com/g/de.comp.text.tex/c/4GAcL6q1TZ8/m/NzccDqakrrMJ>):  
“Der Ursprung ist 0 0, da gibt es nicht viel zu runden; bei den anderen Seiten werden pt als bp in die PDF-Datei geschrieben, d.h. der Balken ist um 72.27/72 zu groß, das sollte auch Rundungsfehler abdecken.”

(The origin is 0 0, there is not much to be rounded; for the other sides the pt are written as bp into the pdf-file, i.e. the rule is too large by 72.27/72, which should cover also rounding errors.)

The thumb marks are also too wide – on purpose! This has been done to assure, that they cover the page up to its (paper) border, therefore they are placed a little bit over the paper margin.

Now I read somewhere in the net (should have remembered to note the url), that white margins are presented, whenever there is some object outside of the page. Thus, it is a feature, not a bug?! What I do not understand: The same document sometimes is presented with white lines and sometimes without (same viewer, same PC).

But at least it does not influence the printed version.

Another green page.

H

It is possible to use the Table of Thumbs more than once (for example at the beginning and at the end of the document) and to refer to them via e.g. `\pageref{TableOfThumbs1}`, `\pageref{TableOfThumbs2}`, ..., here: page 5, page 41, and via e.g. `\pageref{TableOfThumbs}` it is referred to the last used Table of Thumbs (for compatibility with older package versions). If there is only one Table of Thumbs, this one is also the last one, of course. Here it is at page 64.

Now let us have a look at `\thumsoverviewback`:

H

**1st**

First section ..... 11

**2**

Second section ..... 15

**3**

Third section ..... 16

**3b**

Still third section ..... 17

Small  
text

Another heading ..... 24

**Huge  
Text**

Huge Text paragraph ..... 24

**Huge Text**

Huge Text ..... 24

**HBT**

Huge Bold Text ..... 24

**xcolor**

xcolor ..... 28

**A**

A mark ..... 29

**B**

B mark ..... 30



<b>C</b>	C mark .....	31
<b>D</b>	1/1.955 83 EUR .....	32
<b>E</b>	E mark .....	34
<b>F</b>	F mark .....	54
<b>G</b>	G mark .....	55



# NC

New thumb marks column.....56

# H

H mark ..... 58

Text can be placed after any of the Tables of Thumbs, of course.

H