

smartnotes

A package for dynamic side notes

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1 Overview

`smartnotes` provides margin notes that automatically choose the left or right margin based on the note position, so connector lines remain short and direct. Its main focus is clear visual anchoring of notes using short connector arrows. It also supports forced side placement, basic overlap avoidance and two box styles.¹ It is intended for drafting—hence the convenient global disable option—and for adding notes to yourself or collaborators while preparing a document.

2 Loading the package

```
\usepackage{smartnotes}
```

To disable all notes without having to remove them:

```
\usepackage[disable]{smartnotes}
```

3 Default settings

The default values ² used by `smartnotes` are listed in Table 1.

Option	Default value
<code>width</code>	2.2cm
<code>sep</code>	8pt
<code>pagepad</code>	6pt
<code>stacksep</code>	6pt
<code>cornerradius</code>	4pt
<code>backgroundcolor</code>	cyan!20
<code>bordercolor</code>	black
<code>textcolor</code>	black
<code>linecolor</code>	blue
<code>font</code>	<code>\footnotesize\sffamily</code>
<code>shape</code>	rounded
<code>side</code>	auto
<code>fancyline</code>	enabled

Table 1: Default settings of the `smartnotes` package.

¹This package exists because I was supposed to be writing something important, but a minor formatting frustration turned into an evening of procrastination and, eventually, a package.

²These defaults do not have any specific logic; they are simply the ones I was trying to achieve on the evening this package was written.

In words, the defaults correspond to a rounded note box of width 2.2 cm, separated from the text area by 8 pt, with a page-edge padding of 6 pt and a vertical stacking separation of 6 pt. The default corner radius is 4 pt. The note box uses a cyan!20 background with a black border and black text, while connector lines are drawn in blue. The default font is `\footnotesize\sffamily`. Notes are placed automatically on the left or right margin according to their position in the text area, and fancy connector lines are enabled by default.

4 Global setup

Use `\notesetup` in the preamble if you wish to make changes to default style:

```
\notesetup{
  width=2.2cm,
  sep=8pt,
  pagepad=6pt,
  stacksep=4pt,
  backgroundcolor=yellow!30,
  bordercolor=black,
  textcolor=black,
  linecolor=black,
  fancyline,
  rounded,
  cornerradius=4pt,
  font={\linespread{0.7}\selectfont\footnotesize\itshape\sffamily}
}
```

5 The `\note` command

```
\note{Automatic side note}
\note[left]{Forced left}
\note[right]{Forced right}
\note[rectangle]{Sharp corners}
\note[rounded,cornerradius=6pt]{Rounded box with modified corener radius}
\note[nofancyline]{No connector, can be used as a comment box.}
```

6 Supported options

- Dimensions: `width`, `sep`, `pagepad`, `stacksep`, `cornerradius`
- Colors: `backgroundcolor`, `bordercolor`, `textcolor`, `linecolor`, `color`
- Side selection: `auto`, `left`, `right`
- Shape: `rectangle`, `rounded`
- Connector: `fancyline`, `nofancyline`
- Font: `font={...}`

7 Example

Note goes here

The line starts here and the connector shows the location for the note.

For a note that needs to be on the end of a line it shall go here and automatically be printed on the nearest margin.

Note B

A sentence with a note and another.

Automatic placement and stacking.

Second note on the same line.

If for some reason you want a note on the far side - then you can force it like here.

Forced placement