FRISTI
The Foundation for Responsible Info Stuffing Inventions

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Abstract
This article gives an impression of my way of designing and typesetting very small telephone and address lists, birthday calendars etc. Design considerations and typesetting tricks are presented. The latter include macros which define the sheets (from A4 to credit card and even key fob size), macros to process data records (typically specified in a separate file) in various ways, and macros to stuff and stow data in very limited space.

Keywords: small, list, directory, calendar, key fob, credit card, stuffing

Preface
The macros which are presented in this article are not treated in full detail, some are only vaguely mentioned. This article is not meant to be a manual, my goal is to give you an impression of what can be accomplished with \LaTeX{} in the field of Responsible Info Stuffing Inventions. All macros presented in this article are part of the hhfristi package. If you are interested in getting the macros and more thorough explanation, I will happily provide them on request.

The development of all that is presented here, originated in the shortcomings of an ordinary membership list of an extraordinary youth orchestra. The orchestra consists of about fifty members, which are listed yearly on an A4 sized address list, which is handed out to all members. I found that the address lists were ill suited to quite a big part of their daily use, and I wanted to make better lists. Moreover, I wanted to typeset them automatically. The design principles presented in this article are mostly based on the practical problems I encountered; they are not the result of a thorough study of lists in general and therefore may not always be as valuable as they are to me.

Choosing the size of the list
An A4 size list is easy to produce, since it is the standard paper size for typewriters, copying machines etc., and it is very well suited to be stored in an archive, which typically is an ordner, or a box, containing a lot more A4’s which the list can be stored nicely in between. However, an A4 size list may not be such a good list to have at hand in varying circumstances. To stuff an A4 in a wallet, you must fold it at least three times. On the folds the text will wear off, and eventually the list will tear. Besides, an A4 size sheet of paper folded three times will be almost one millimeter thick; having a few of those lists in your wallet will contribute quite a lot to uncomfortable thickness. Furthermore, big lists, especially wide lists, are often hard to read correctly, as will be explained further on.

For always-at-hand lists I prefer a page size of A7 maximum. One can construct bigger lists, but then I recommend doing it in such a way that the list can be folded to A7 size or less, without having the folds cut the text. In table 2 you will find a summary of the list sizes supported by the hhfristi package.

The hhfristi list sizes and shapes can be selected using the fristiform environment. Text inside this environment is formatted to fit the specified shape and size, and consequently output in one or two boxes (for one and two sided lists). These boxes can be printed next to each other by including the fristiform environment in a \hbox, or on top of each other by using a \vbox. The fristiform environment requires one argument which is a list of options separated by commas. Simple options consist of a single keyword; value options consist of a keyword followed by the ‘=’ character and some kind of value. The options supported are listed in tables 1 and 2.

Selecting font sizes
To make it easier to experiment with different font sizes I developed a macro \hhfrsizes. A typical use of this macro reads \hhfrsizes{8pt}{1.05}. It sets \normalsize to 8pt, sets all other font size macros (\scriptsize, \small, \large etc.) to appropriate values relative to the \normalsize, and sets the baseline stretch to 1.05. All font sizes calculated are rounded to standard values between 5pt and 24.88pt (10pt \times 1.25).

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1At least it is in the Netherlands; substitute a similar size for other countries in this sentence.