

# Changing the page layout in PMX

**PMX** generally does a good job of adjusting the page layout without intervention by the user. Sometimes, however, you may want special adjustments. One such adjustment, adding text after the end of the whole piece, has already been discussed in the “Tips & Tricks” section of the **PMX** tutorial by C.C. Noack.

Here is another set of simple inline T<sub>E</sub>X solutions to often-occurring page layout problems:

## 1 Adding free space at the bottom of a page

Normally, **PMX** spreads the systems nicely over all the available space on a page, and the user can control how it does that by using commands like ‘Ae1.7’: the ‘1.7’ makes the systems narrower, and the ‘e’ spreads them for more place between the systems.

You may, however, want to manually add some “free space”, unavailable to **PMX**, at the bottom of the page. Positive free space can be used to put some text under the systems, ‘negative’ free space makes **PMX** believe it has more space available than the whole page, and thus serves to give the systems more room.

### 1.1 On the last page

This is a variant of the method given by Ch. Mondrup, cited above. Instead of simply adding the text material to the definition `\endpiece`, this macro allocates some additional space after the lowest staff, to ensure appropriate spacing (in the example given here, this is taken as `5\Interligne`, but any legitimate T<sub>E</sub>X length will do):

```
% make a text that starts after the last system
\def\text{\vtop{this is the first line \par this is the second one}} \
%
% add space between lowest staff and foot line
% and put the text in it:
\\let\Endpiecesav\Endpiece\
\\def\Endpiece{\let\Endpiece\Endpiecesav\Endpiece\vskip5\Interligne\text}\
```

In this example, the text to be inserted is explicitly entered into the macro with a `\def\text{...}` command; but you can just as well put it into a text file `comment.tex` and then use

```
\\def\Endpiece{\let\Endpiece ... \vskip5\Interligne \input comment}\
```

Note that in MusiX<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> `\Endpiece` and `\endpiece` have different meanings (denoting different end bar symbols); and there are still other possible endings (e.g. `\Stoppiece`). So you should check the `.tex` file to see which name **PMX** uses to end the particular piece.

### 1.2 on one particular page only

```
% less space between lowest staff and foot line
\\let\ejectsav\eject\
% put this on the page you want to change:
\\def\eject{\let\eject\ejectsav\vskip-3\Interligne\eject}\
```

### 1.3 on all pages

```
% less space between lowest staff and foot line
\\let\ejectsav\eject\
\\def\eject{\vskip-3\Interligne\ejectsav}\
```

### 1.4 on all pages starting from a particular one

```
% more space between lowest staff and foot line
\\let\ejectsav\eject\
% put this on the page on which you want the change to start:
\\def\eject{\vskip+3\Interligne\ejectsav}\
```

Examples of these are contained in example file 1.

## 2 Adding space before and after the title

Adding vertical space before or after the instrument/title/composer lines can be done simply with the regular **PMX** commands (Ti/Tt/Tc) by inserting blank lines (`'~\'`) in the text.

Negative space is more difficult. But one can always make the page longer with i.e. a `'h260m'` command and then alter the margins with inline T<sub>E</sub>X commands, e.g. `\voffset=-15mm\hoffset=0mm`.

Shrinking the space between the composer line and the first system cannot be done with generic **PMX** commands. If you insist on designing your own layout of the title material, it is simpler to use inline T<sub>E</sub>X for that from the start (instead of the **PMX** commands Ti/Tt/Tc). You could, e.g., write<sup>1</sup>

```
\\centerline{title}\
\\line{}\
\\line{\hss composer}\
\\vskip-3\Interligne\
```

## 3 Making the height of the systems the same on all the pages

When there is text material (e.g. title, composer) at the head of the first page, there is less available space for the music on the first page than on the other pages. **PMX** deals with this automatically by adjusting the interstaff spacing on the first page.

This may, in some cases, look rather unpleasant. You may want to insist, instead, that the height of all systems be the same on all pages. This is how to achieve that:

1. adapt the desired height of the systems by using the **PMX** 'Al' command (i.e. 'Al.8'),
2. run `pmax`, look at the resulting `.tex` file, and determine the staff height for page 2 (this will be the second occurrence of `\interstaff{...}`),
3. use that setting for the first page as well, by inserting into the header the inline T<sub>E</sub>X command `\\interstaff{...}`
4. rerun **PMX**.

In the example file 2, this is done with `\\interstaff{9.9}`. You can see the effect of this if you comment out temporarily the relevant lines

```
AeI.8
\\interstaff{9.9}\
```

### 3.1 Interstaff after a new movement

After a movement break it could be necessary to use the following code to change the interstaff value.

```
\\let\interstaffsav\interstaff\
\\def\interstaff#1{\let\interstaff\interstaffsav\interstaff{9.9}}\
```

### 3.2 Normalising the distance between the systems

If you want the distance between the systems the same on all the pages, you can use constructs as

```
\\def\eject{\let\eject\ejectsav\vskip0\Interligne\eject\
\\line{~}\line{~}\line{~}\line{~}\}
```

on the previous page(s) for adding space on the top off the page and using for example

```
\\def\eject{\vskip+3\Interligne\ejectsav}\
on the current page for adding space to the bottom.
```

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<sup>1</sup>An even more versatile solution for that is to use L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X with the `mtxlatex` package that comes with the **M-Tx** distribution (cf. the **PMX** tutorial by C.C. Noack).