

are available on CD-Rom, or user groups that can be of assistance in obtaining materials.

Finally, it is customary to mention briefly the layout and design of any book about \TeX . Although the author and publisher consider this book an 'excellent example' of a beautiful book typeset with \TeX , I do not entirely agree. With the many white spaces around illustrations and headings, it is a less than felicitous idea to separate paragraphs by white space, instead of simply indenting them. Also, the only distinction between levels of headings is through font sizes. Any real size difference, however, is dwarfed by the difference between headings in all lowercase such as **xv**, and ones in the same font size but mostly uppercase such as **PBMPlus**.

In conclusion I can safely state that this book stands alone among \TeX books. It contains much that is not in print anywhere else, and its usefulness spans all types of \TeX users. Victor sez check it out.

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Book review: *L^AT_EX guide pratique*

Jacques André

Christian ROLLAND, *L^AT_EX guide pratique*. Éditions Addison-Wesley-France, Paris, 1993, 280 pages; ISBN 2-87908-025-8; in French.

Up to now, only two books have been available in French on \TeX or $L^A T_E X$: the famous *Petit livre de \TeX* by Seroul, and a translation, by Éric Cornelis, of Michael Urban's *An introduction to L^AT_EX* published as *Premier pas en L^AT_EX* by Cahiers GUTenberg. The gap between these two books is now filled.

Although it follows more or less the same road as Lamport's *L^AT_EX user's guide*, this French guide is not just a translation of it. It contains a lot of useful macros, examples, tables, index, etc. Furthermore, this book contains details on extensions that are not described in Lamport's book (such as on Makeindex, B^BT_EX, Picture, and, an important point, french.sty, etc.).

I used to have Lamport's book near my station. Now, as a French speaker, I have Rolland's: this is a good book!

However... I disagree with the publishers: I do not understand why they have published this book. I mean, why so late, or why they have not waited for Goossens and Mittelbach's *L^AT_EX Companion* translation? This book doesn't have exactly the same audience (Rolland's is more directed to beginners, not low level ones but rather, let us say, regular users, while the *Companion* is instead for advanced $L^A T_E X$ ers). No, the problem is that Rolland's book is rather old: nothing about multicolumns, nothing (or almost) about NFSS, nothing about the use of PostScript files (through psfig, pstricks, etc.). Not one Frequently Asked Question is answered here. The author is a beginner and he wrote the book he would have liked to have when learning $L^A T_E X$. On the other hand, the publisher should have asked (for example to the French TUG: Association GUTenberg) for opinions on this book. It would have been said that chapters should have been added ($L^A T_E X$ in 1994 is not the same as in 1986...). At least, let us hope that a French translation of *The Companion* will be published as soon as possible.

Typesetting on Personal Computers

Next \TeX : \TeX plus the NextStep Operating System

Alan Hoenig

I recently upgraded my computer system and now use the NextStep operating system on a 486 Intel box. I can't imagine using any other operating system. One of the many pleasures of this computer environment is the implementation of \TeX (plus METAFONT plus all other \TeX - and METAFONTware) developed by Tom Rokicki of Radical Eye Software for NextStep. The purpose of this article is to describe the unique features of *TEXView*, the name for this system. I will not spend much time on the standard features common to all implementations. As far as I have so far been able to determine,