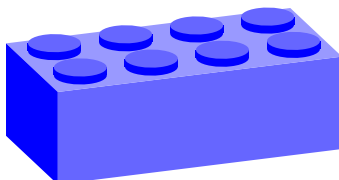


The TikZbricks package

Drawing bricks with TikZ



samcarter

<https://github.com/samcarter/TikZbricks>

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1 Introduction

The idea for the TikZbricks package was born at the [TUG'21 conference](#), at which one of the interviewees had a very cool collection of brick models in the background.

The package allows to draw bricks with TikZ. The user can modify their colour, shape and change the viewpoint. Internally the `tikz-3dplot` package is used for the 3D rendering.

The development version of this package is located at <https://github.com/samcarter/TikZbricks>. If you have any problems, ideas or other feedback, please make constructive use of its bug tracker.

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2 Basic usage

An individual TikZbrick can be drawn with


TikZbrick	
<code>\brick{4}{2}</code>	

in which the first argument specifies the length of the block and the second argument its width. In addition to this basic block, the user can customise the block via optional arguments.

The package comes with a couple of build in options. First the user can adjust the colour:

Colour	
<pre>\begin{tikzpicture} \brick[color=blue]{1}{3} \end{tikzpicture}</pre>	

It is also possible to change the default height of 1.3 to a custom value:

Height	
<pre>\begin{tikzpicture} \brick[brickheight=0.3]{2}{1} \end{tikzpicture}</pre>	

And on top of the studs, a custom text can be added:

Height	
<pre>\begin{tikzpicture} \brick[studtext={TikZ}]{2}{3} \end{tikzpicture}</pre>	

To change the viewpoint, one can make use of the fact, that the `tikz-3dplot` package is used internally. By default, the `TikZbricks` package uses `\tdplotsetmaincoords{70}{160}`, but this can be adjusted as desired:

Viewport	
<pre>\tdplotsetmaincoords{70}{110} \begin{tikzpicture} \brick{4}{2} \end{tikzpicture}</pre>	

In addition to these `TikZbrick` specific options, one can also use all normal `TikZ` options:

TikZ options	
<pre>\begin{tikzpicture} \brick[scale=1.5]{1}{1} \brick[xshift=3cm]{2}{2} \end{tikzpicture}</pre>	

3 Wall building

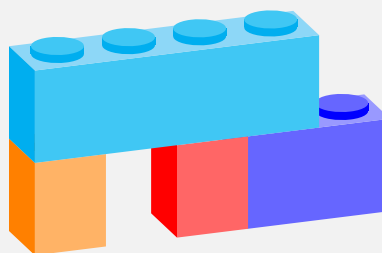
So what to do with the TikZbricks? Like with any other building blocks, they are made to build things. Using the `wall` environment one can place `\wallbrick` besides each other.

Due to the perspective and order of drawing, the wall is build from bottom to top and from right to left. To leave gaps or change into another layer, one can add to the `brickx`, `bricky` and `brickz` counters.

Inside the `wall` environment one can use `\newrow` as a shortcut to go one row up and back to the start at the right hand side.

Wall building

```
\begin{wall}  
  \wallbrick[color=blue]{2}{1}  
  \wallbrick[color=red]{1}{1}  
  \addtocounter{brickx}{1}  
  \wallbrick[color=orange]{1}{1}  
  \newrow  
  \addtocounter{brickx}{1}{1}  
  \wallbrick[color=cyan]{4}{1}  
\end{wall}
```



4 Example

One example inspired by the documentation of the [pxpic](#) package:

