

NOVEL

A Document Class for the Rest of Us



It was a dark and stormy night.

The *novel* document class is for writers of original fiction, to be printed to paper, with particular attention to the requirements of the print-on-demand market.

If your work is an E-book, or uses color other than gray, or is academic writing, then this document class is not for you. Images are supported, but only as they might be used in fiction; so if your work is a picture book, this class is not for you.

But if you are writing a detective novel, or science fiction, or a collection of short stories, then read on!

1. Features

Throughout, it is assumed that the purpose of your writing is a commercially printed book of fiction.

A new *novel* is pre-configured to produce a standard trade book size of 5.5in W x 8.5in H, with layout margins that are likely to be acceptable to the most widely-used print services. The file now are now reading is in this format. But if that is not the size or layout you want, then there are commands that configure just about anything, using standard terminology and understandable purpose. Best of all, the HTML documentation comes with images and examples, so you know what you are doing.

Almost everything is pre-configured to “just work,” even the choice of fonts. The chosen compiler is LuaLaTeX, and Open Type fonts are loaded using fontspec technology. If you prefer to use a professional font, it will be easy to load and use in utf-8.

Many standard LaTeX commands are disabled. This will be surprising at first. But *novel* is focused on one thing only. Anything that might interfere with that purpose may have been tossed aside. So, be sure that you read the documentation! If you take an existing LaTeX document and just change the class to *novel*, it is very unlikely to work as expected.

Many new commands are provided. They are focused on the needs of print fiction writers, period. And, *novel* has built-in PDF/X technology that exceeds the capabilities currently available via other LaTeX packages.

2. Complete Documentation

What you are reading now, is only an introduction. The complete documentation is in HTML format, directly written in HTML rather than extracted from code. There are numerous examples and images, too detailed to be presented as PDF.

3. License

The LaTeX code, and accompanying documentation, is released under the LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3c or later.

The companion font *NovelDeco.otf* is licensed under the SIL Open Font License, version 1.1.

4. Version

1.38, 2017-08-15: corrected offset in cover artwork.

1.36, 2017-08-10: minor documentation correction.

1.34, 2017-07-31: added debug feature for maintainers.

1.32, 2017-07-26: minor bug fixes in docs, major bug concerning \textls in code.

1.2, 2017-06-06: added code for color image artwork.

1.1, 2017-03-01: initial public release.

5. FAQs

- Q. Can this document class be used for E-books?
- A. No. And, that feature will never be added, as the technology is inherently incompatible.
- Q. Is this project still alive?
- A. Yes, and it is still in use by its originator. However, the originator would like someone else to take over long-term maintenance, because he is moving on to other things. If interested, contact CTAN and the creator (e-mail at top of novel.cls file). You will need to be familiar with LuaLaTeX, fontspec, Open Type, and the terminology of fiction writing. Lua coding not required. Until then, the originator will maintain it from time to time.
- Q. My thesis advisor told me—
- A. Stop right there. This document class is very different from anything used for theses and other academic publications.
- Q. If I use TikZ for Feynman diagrams, then—
- A. Go away.
- Q. When I woke up this morning, my head felt like a toddler had been pounding it in a sandbox. I rolled over and look at the mug shot on the wall. It was a woman in her forties with a drug habit that was bad, and an attitude that was even worse. She had seen better days, like the time I took her to the eighth grade sock hop. Then I got up, washed, and dragged my lonely butt down to the one-man detective agency that I jokingly called my means of living. You know what I mean?
- A. Yeah. Stick with me, kid. This document class is for you.