

**NAME**

`dvi2tty` – preview a TeX DVI file on an ordinary ASCII terminal

**SYNOPSIS**

`dvi2tty` [ options ] `dvifile`

**DESCRIPTION**

`dvi2tty` converts a TeX DVI file to a format that is appropriate for terminals and line printers. The program is intended to be used for preliminary proofreading of TeX-ed documents. By default the output is directed to the terminal, possibly through a pager (depending on how the program was installed), but it can be directed to a file or a pipe.

The output leaves much to be desired, but is still useful if you want to avoid walking to the laser printer (or whatever) for each iteration of your document.

Since `dvi2tty` produces output for terminals and line printers the representation of documents is naturally quite primitive. In principle font changes are totally ignored, but `dvi2tty` recognizes a few mathematical and special symbols that can be displayed on an ordinary ASCII terminal, such as the '+' and '-' symbol.

If the width of the output text requires more columns than fits in one line (cf. the `-w` option) it is broken into several lines by `dvi2tty` although they will be printed as one line on regular TeX output devices (e.g., laser printers). To show that a broken line is really just one logical line an asterisk (“\*”) in the last position means that the logical line is continued on the next physical line output by `dvi2tty`. Such a continuation line is started with a space and an asterisk in the first two columns.

Options may be specified in the environment variable `DVI2TTY`. Any option on the command line, conflicting with one in the environment, will override the one from the environment.

**Options:**

- o file** Write output to file “file”.
- p list** Print the pages chosen by list. Numbers refer to TeX page numbers (known as `\count0`). An example of format for list is “1,3:6,8” to choose pages 1, 3 through 6 and 8. Negative numbers can be used exactly as in TeX, e.g., `-1` comes before `-4` as in “-p-1:-4,17”.
- P list** Like `-p` except that page numbers refer to the sequential ordering of the pages in the dvi-file. Negative numbers don’t make a lot of sense here...
- w n** Specify terminal width `n`. Valid range 16–132. Default is 80. If your terminal has the ability to display in 132 columns it might be a good idea to use `-w132` and toggle the terminal into this mode as output will probably look somewhat better.
- v** Specify height of lines. Default value 450000. Allows one to adjust linespacing.
- q** Don’t pipe the output through a pager. This may be the default on some systems (depending on the whims of the person installing the program).
- e n** This option can be used to influence the spacing between words. With a negative value the number of spaces between words becomes less, with a positive value it becomes more. `-e-11` seems to worked well.
- f** Pipe through a pager, `$PAGER` if defined, or whatever the installer of the program compiled in (often “more”). This may be the default, but it is still okay to redirect output with “>”, the pager will not be used if output is not going to a terminal.

- F** Specify the pager program to be used. This overrides the `$PAGER` environment variable and the default pager.
- Fprog** Use “prog” as program to pipe output into. Can be used to choose an alternate pager (e.g., “-Fless”).
- t** \tt fonts were used (instead of cm) to produce the dvi file.
- a** Dvi2tty normally tries to output accented characters. With the `-a` option, accented characters are output without the accent sign.
- l** Mark page breaks with the two-character sequence “^L”. The default is to mark them with a form-feed character.
- c** Do not attempt to translate any characters (like the Scandinavian/latin1 mode) except when running in tt-font.
- u** Toggle option to process certain latin1 characters. Use this if your output devices supports latin1 characters. Note this may interfere with `-s`. Best not to use `-u` and `-s` together.
- s** Toggle option to process the special Scandinavian characters that on most (?) terminals in Scandinavia are mapped to “{|}[^]”. Note this may interfere with `-u`. Best not to use `-u` and `-s` together.
- J** Auto detect NTT JTeX, ASCII pTeX, and upTeX dvi format.
- N** Display NTT JTeX dvi.
- A** Display ASCII pTeX dvi.
- U** Display upTeX dvi.
- Eenc** Set output Japanese encoding. The enc argument ‘e’, ‘s’, ‘j’, and ‘u’ denotes EUC-JP, Shift\_JIS, ISO-2022-JP, and UTF-8, respectively.
- bdelim** Print the name of fonts when switching to it (and ending it). The delim argument is used to delimit the fontname.
- h** Show a help message and exit successfully.

## FILES

/bin/more probably the default pager.

## ENVIRONMENT

`PAGER` the pager to use.  
`DVI2TTY` can be set to hold command-line options.

## SEE ALSO

TeX, dvi2ps

## AUTHOR

Original Pascal version: Svante Lindahl, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm  
Improved C version: Marcel Mol, MESA Consulting  
Now maintained at <https://github.com/t-tk/dvi2tty/releases>.

## BUGS

Blanks between words get lost quite easily. This is less likely if you are using a wider output than the default 80.

Only one file may be specified on the command line.