pst-poker
v.0.04a

Herbert Voß

July 9, 2025

This document illustrates the possible variations in displaying playing cards available in the LaTeX pst-poker package.

pst-poker is based on the package poker from Olaf Encke.

Thanks to:
Karl Berry

Contents

1 Ibtroduction

`pst-poker` itself loads the following packages:

```
\RequirePackage{pstricks,pst-blur,multido}
\RequirePackage{graphicx}
\RequirePackage[tiling]{pst-fill}
```

If you want to pass some optional arguments to one or more of these packages you have to use the macro `\PassOptionsToPackage` *before* loading `pst-poker`. The best way is before the document class. For example

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{graphicx}{xetex}
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{pst-poker}
[...]
```

2 Inline Poker symbols

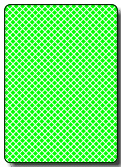There are several possible styles for inline cards. The default way is as small cards, i.e. ♠ ♥ ♦ ♠ ♣. They can also be displayed as simple symbols A♣ K♥ Q♦ J♠ 10♣ or as boxed symbols A ♣ | K ♥ | Q ♦ | J ♠ | 10 ♣ .

A card back [   ] is available, too.

It is also possible to variate the used colorset. In addition to the standard red/black colors, a four color set ♠♥♦♠♣ as often used in online poker can be chosen. When colors are not desired, i.e. for printing purposes, the possible alternatives are a grayscale version A♣ K♥ Q♦ J♠ 10♣ or complete black/white A ♣ | K ♡ | Q ♢ | J ♠ | 10 ♣ with outlined red symbols.

3 Poker cards

The big cards offer a lot of options for design. The default design looks like this.
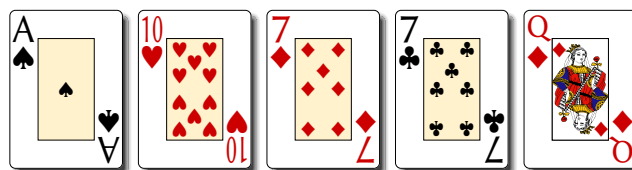
The most basic variation is the size set by `unit`.
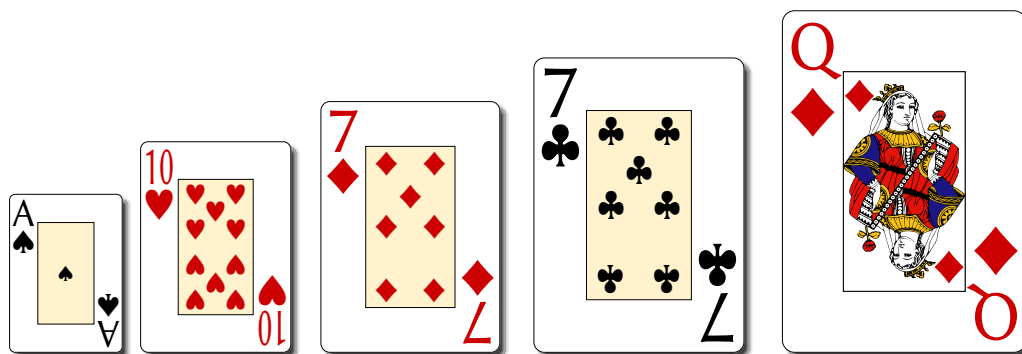
```
\crdAs
\crdtenh[unit=1.1]
\crdsevd[unit=1.2]
\crdsevc[unit=1.3]
\crdQd[unit=1.4]
```

As with the inline cards we can choose the colorset.
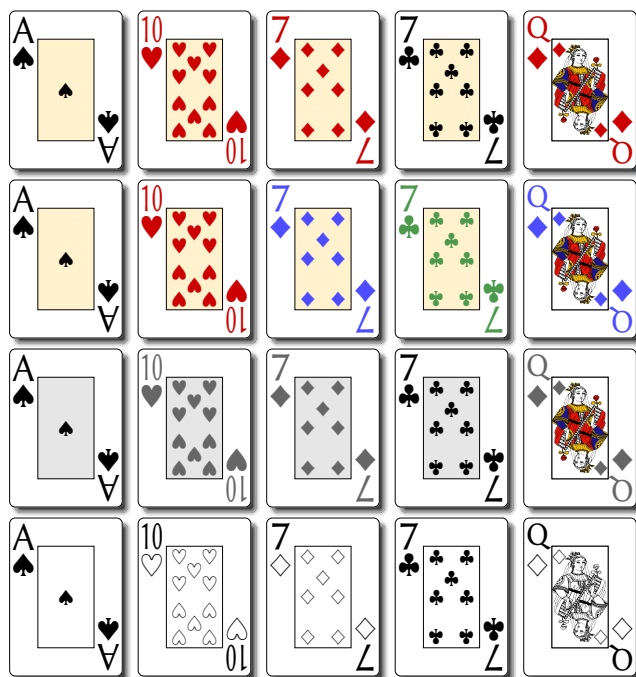
```
\psset{framebg=beige}
\crdAs
\crdtenh
\crdsevd
\crdsevc
\crdQd\\
\psset{colorset=4c}
\crdAs
\crdtenh
\crdsevd
\crdsevc
\crdQd\\
\psset{colorset=gs}
\crdAs
\crdtenh
\crdsevd
\crdsevc
\crdQd\\
\psset{colorset=bw}
\crdAs
\crdtenh
\crdsevd
\crdsevc
\crdQd
```

The frame background can be varied separately by the optional argument `framebg`, either with predefined colors as shown here or by using a selfdefined color.
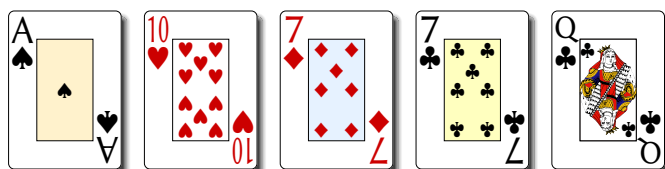
```
\psset{colorset=2c}
\crdAs[framebg=beige]
\crdtenh[framebg=white]
\crdsevd[framebg=blue]
\crdsevc[framebg=yellow]
\crdQc[framebg=red]% not valid for Queen, Jack, King
```

It is also possible to place indices in all **four corners** or use **peek indices**.
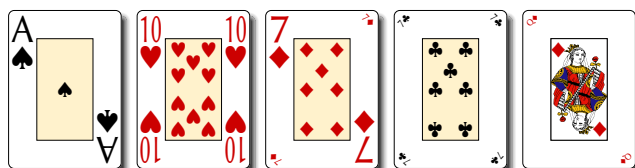
```
\psset{corners=2}\crdAs
\psset{corners=4}\crdtenh
\psset{peek=right}\crdsevd
\psset{peek=both}\crdsevc
\psset{corners=2,peek=left}\crdQd
```

Besides the **jumbo indices** a **regular index** can be used. All other options remain available.
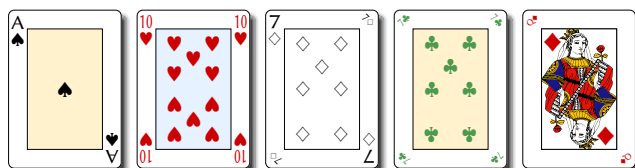
```
\psset{corners=2}\crdAs
\psset{corners=4,framebg=blue}\crdtenh
\psset{peek=right,framebg=beige,colorset=bw}\crdsevd
\psset{peek=both,colorset=4c}\crdsevc
\psset{corners=2,peek=left,colorset=2c}\crdQd
```

The crdshadow of the cards can be shown blurred, solid or deactivated.
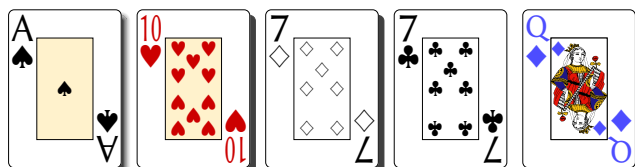
```
\psset{index=jumbo,corners=2,colorset=4c}
\psset{crdshadow=blurred}\crdAs
\psset{crdshadow=solid}\crdtenh
\psset{crdshadow=solid,colorset=bw}\crdsevd
\psset{crdshadow=none,colorset=bw}\crdsevc
\psset{crdshadow=none,colorset=4c}\crdQd
```

Card backs are also available in various styles and customizable in color.
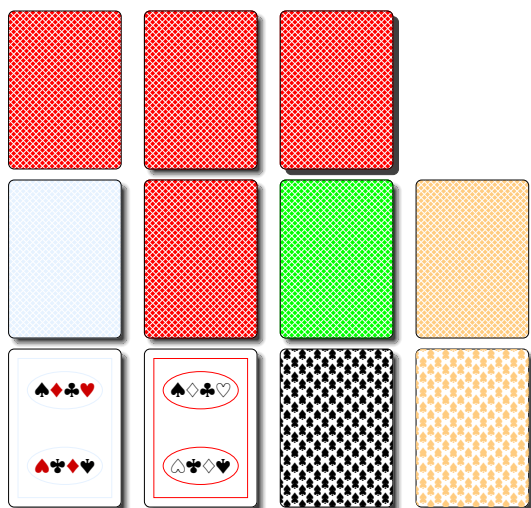
```
{\psset{index=jumbo, colorset=4c, backcolor=red}
\crdback[crdshadow=none]
\crdback[crdshadow=blurred]
\crdback[crdshadow=solid]}

\psset{crdshadow=blurred,colorset=4c}
\crdback[backcolor=blue]
\crdback[backcolor=red]
\crdback[back=simple, backcolor=green]
\crdback[back=simple, backcolor=orange, crdshadow=none]

\crdback[colorset=2c, back=suits,backcolor=blue]
\crdback[colorset=bw, back=suits,backcolor=red]
\crdback[back=spades, backcolor=black]
\crdback[back=spades, backcolor=orange, crdshadow=blurred]
```

4 Usage

To make the poker package available within a LATEX document you have to add

 \usepackage{pst-poker}

to the preamble. Then you can change the options used with the command

 \psset{option=value[,option=value]}

anywhere within the document.

4.1 Inline cards

To print inline cards you just need to call the macro associated with the card you want.

 \As\tenh\sevd\sevc\Qd

creates the cards ♠♥♦♣♥.
    They are coded by their value and suit. Use this table to select the value

Ace	King	Queen	Jack	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
A	K	Q	J	ten	nine	eig	sev	six	five	four	tre	two

and the next to select the letter for the suit:

Spade	Heart	Diamond	Club
s	h	d	c

You can influence the display of the inline cards with the options `inline` and `colorset`.

Option	Values	Description
`inline`	`symbol`	uses simple symbols to depict cards
	`boxed`	draws rounded boxes around the symbols
	`card` *	draws simplified cards with value and suit stacked vertically
`colorset`	`2c` *	suits in red and black colors
	`4c`	suits in black/red/blue/green colors
	`gs`	grayscaled suits
	`bw`	black/white and outlined suits

*: default

Options

Here we have a lot of options available to change the appearance of the cards. They are explained in table 1.

Since the `peek` option modifies the `corners` setting which in turn resets `peek`, it is advisable to first declare the `corners` option and then use the `peek` option if necessary.

The same applies to the `framebg` and `backcolor` options modifying the `colorset` option.

Advanced constructs

There are several commands available for the advanced placement of cards.

```
\crdpair{\crdKs}{\crdtenh}%
\crdflop{\crdsevd}{\crdsevc}{\crdQd}%
\crdKc\crdKd%
```
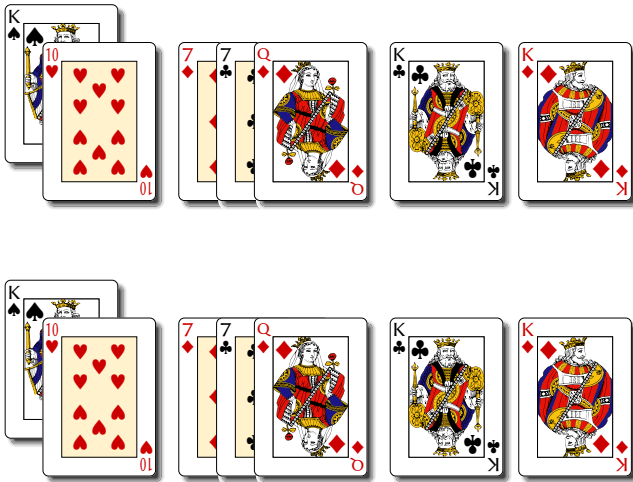

Figure 1: card pair, flop and two cards

Table 1: Options for cards using the `cards` environment

Option	Values	Description
`index`	`jumbo` *	jumbo size indices
	`regular`	regular size indices
`corners`	`2` *	indices in upper left and lower right corners
	`4`	indices in all four corners
`peek`	`right`	add peek indices to right corners
	`left`	add peek indices to left corners
	`both`	add peek indices to all corners
`colorset`	`2c` *	suits in red and black colors
	`4c`	suits in black/red/blue/green colors
	`gs`	grayscaled suits
	`bw`	black/white and outlined suits
`framebg`	`beige` *	color choices for inner frame background
	`blue`	
	`white`	
	`yellow`	
	`<user>`	user defined color
`back`	`simple` *	diamond/squares styled card back
	`suits`	suits in ellipse on net background
	`spades`	spades filled background
`backcolor`	`blue` *	color choices of main background elements
	`red`	
	`green`	
	`orange`	
	`<user>`	user defined color
`crdshadow`	`blurred` *	gradient shadow
	`solid`	solid black shadow
	`none`	no shadow

*: default
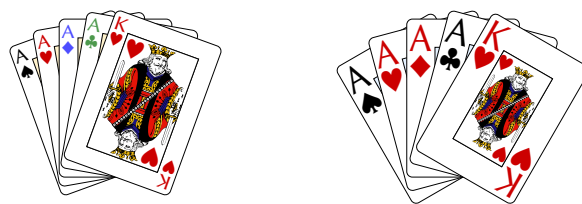
Figure 2: Advanced display variations for floating cards
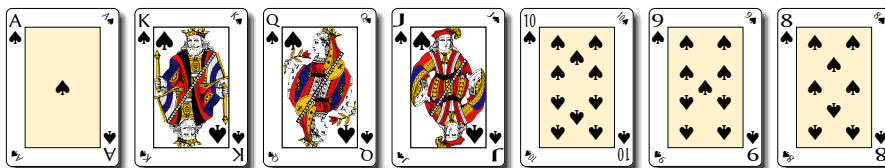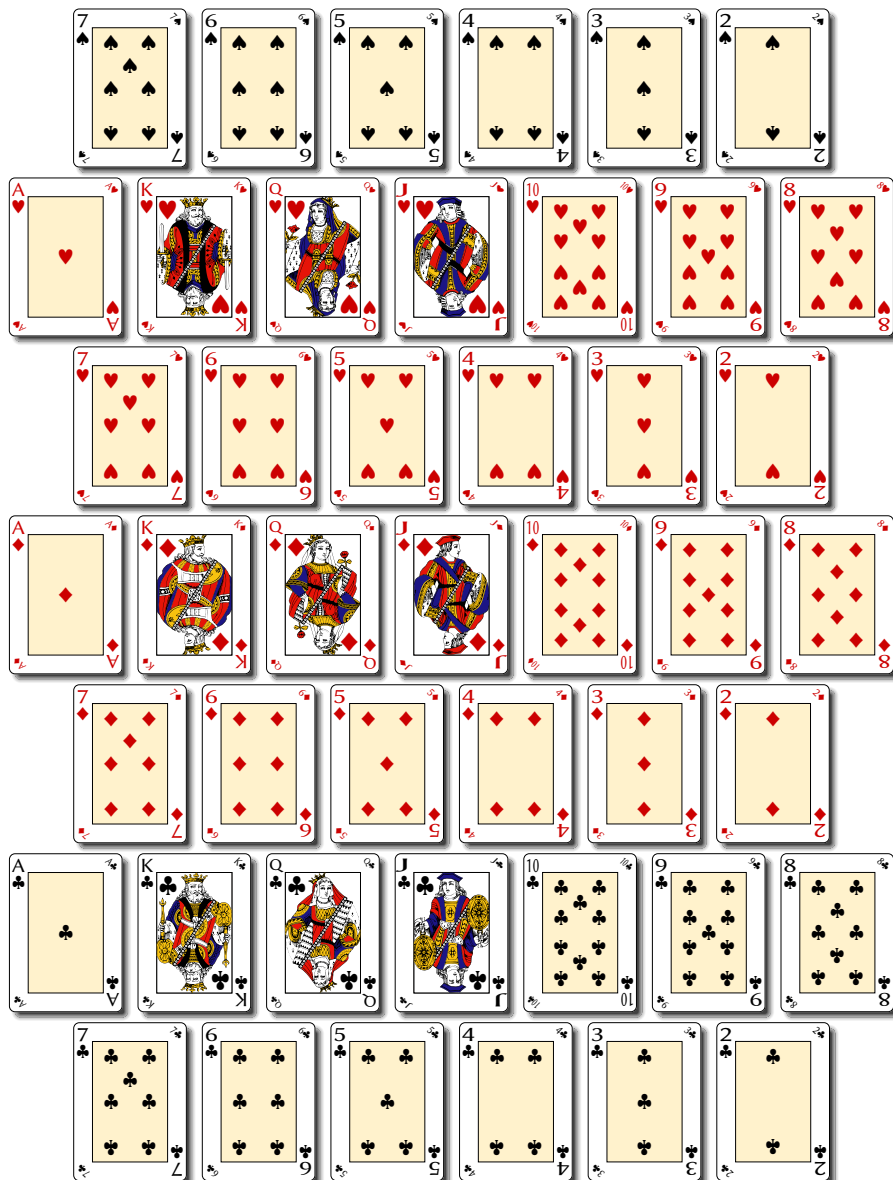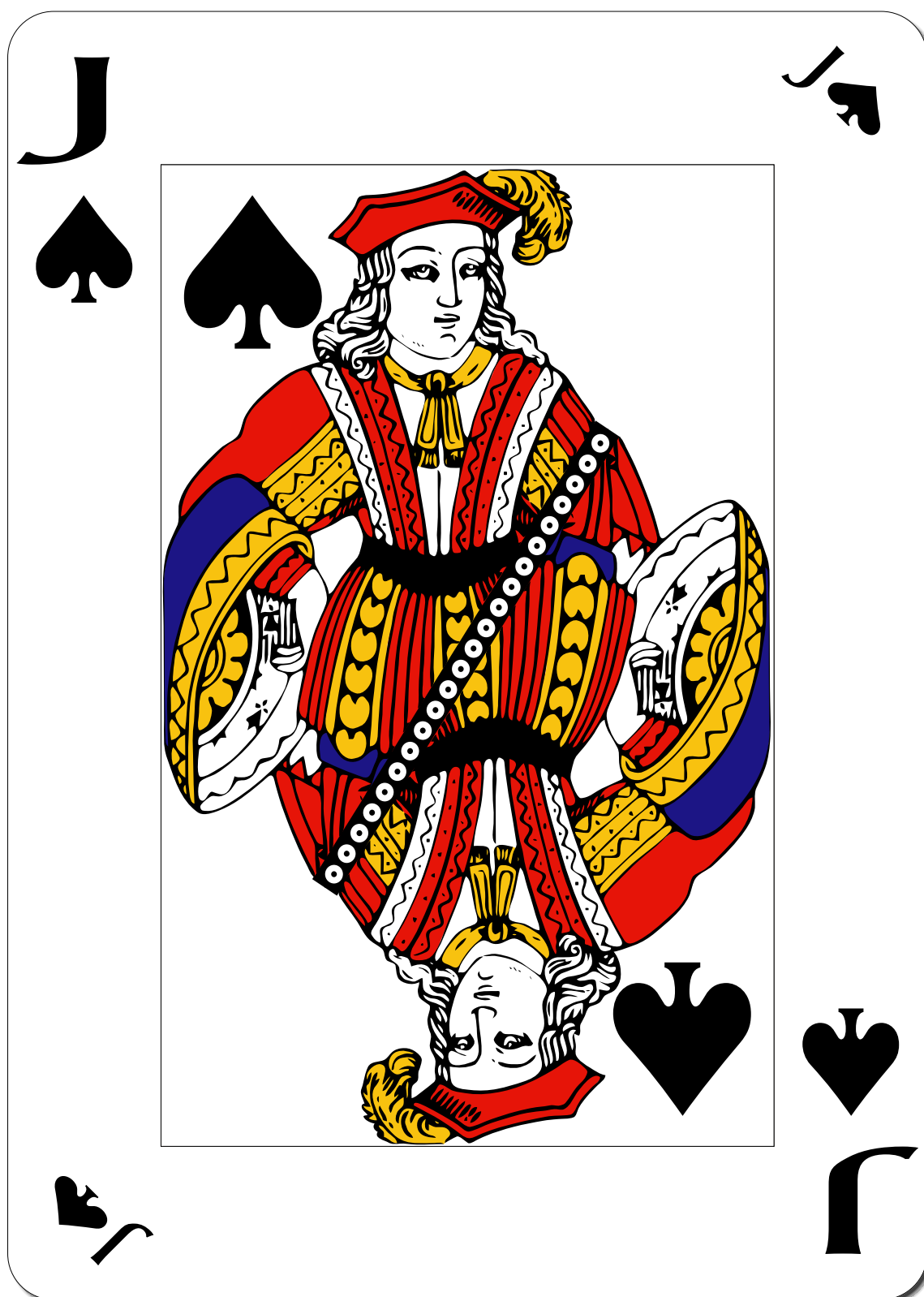
\crdJs[unit=5cm,colorset=2c,corners=4,peek=right]

5 List of all optional arguments for `pst-poker`

Key	Type	Default
colorset	choice	2c
colorset	choice	[none]
unit	ordinary	1cm
inline	choice	symbol
inline	choice	[none]
corners	choice	4
corners	choice	[none]
peek	choice	r
peek	choice	[none]
framebg	ordinary	blue
backcolor	ordinary	red
index	choice	regular
index	choice	[none]
crdshadow	choice	blurred
crdshadow	choice	[none]
back	choice	suits
back	choice	[none]
cardsuit	choice	[none]
cardvalue	choice	[none]

References

[1]   Denis Girou. "Présentation de PSTricks". In: *Cahier GUTenberg* 16 (Apr. 1994), pp. 21–70.

[2]   Michel Goosens et al. *The LATEX Graphics Companion.* 2nd ed. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 2007.

[3]   Michel Goosens et al. *The LATEX Graphics Companion.* 2nd ed. Preprint of the english version, 2nd edition. Berlin: Lehmanns Media, 2022.

[4]   Alan Hoenig. *TEX Unbound: LATEX & TEX Strategies, Fonts, Graphics, and More.* London: Oxford University Press, 1998.

[5]   Nikolai G. Kollock. *PostScript richtig eingesetzt: vom Konzept zum praktischen Einsatz.* Vaterstetten: IWT, 1989.

[6]   Frank Mittelbach and Michel Goosens et al. *The LATEX Companion.* 2nd ed. Boston: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 2004.

[7]   Herbert Voß. `PSTricks` *Grafik für* TEX *und* LATEX. 7th ed. Heidelberg and Berlin: DANTE – Lehmanns, 2016.

[8]   Herbert Voß. `PSTricks` *Graphics for* LATEX. 1st ed. Cambridge: UIT, 2011.

[9]   Timothy Van Zandt. `multido.tex` *- a loop macro, that supports fixed-point addition.* 1997. URL: `/graphics/pstricks/generic/multido.tex`.

[10] Timothy Van Zandt. *PSTricks - PostScript macros for generic* TEX. 1993.

[11] Timothy Van Zandt and Denis Girou. "Inside PSTricks". In: *TUGboat* 15 (Sept. 1994), pp. 239–246.

Index

C
colorset, 4
crdshadow, 6

F
framebg, 5

K
Keyword
– colorset, 4
– crdshadow, 6
– framebg, 5
– unit, 3

M
Macro
– \PassOptionsToPackage, 3

P
Package
– poker, 1
– pst-poker, 1, 3
\PassOptionsToPackage, 3
poker, 1
pst-poker, 1, 3

U
unit, 3