

# onlinebrief24

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2026-03-11

## Abstract

`onlinebrief24` is a LaTeX class for DIN 5008 type-B business letters calibrated for use with [onlinebrief24.de](https://www.ctan.org/pkg/onlinebrief24). It provides a plain letter layout, a modern variant with header and footer, and a technical guides mode for layout inspection. [onlinebrief24.de](https://www.ctan.org/pkg/onlinebrief24) is a hybrid mail service for business customers: documents are submitted digitally, and the service handles printing, enveloping, franking, and postal delivery.

## 1 Status

The class is currently verified with XeLaTeX and LuaLaTeX. The supported and hardened use case is one letter per document. The package is aimed at German business letters and loads `babel` with `ngerman`.

## 2 Installation

After the package has propagated from CTAN into your TeX distribution, install it with your distribution's package manager if that route is available to you.

For direct use, development snapshots, or local testing, place `onlinebrief24.cls` next to your `.tex` document and load it with:

```
\documentclass{onlinebrief24}
```

To install the current class file into your local TeX tree:

```
kpsewhich -var-value TEXMFHOME  
mkdir -p "$(kpsewhich -var-value TEXMFHOME)/tex/latex/onlinebrief24"  
cp onlinebrief24.cls "$(kpsewhich -var-value TEXMFHOME)/tex/latex/onlinebrief24/"  
texhash
```

## 3 Engine Support

- XeLaTeX: verified
- LuaLaTeX: verified
- pdfLaTeX: not supported

The class uses `fontspec`. If Arial is not installed, it falls back to TeX Gyre Heros.

## 4 Minimal Example

```
\documentclass[basic]{onlinebrief24}

\setreturnaddress{Erika Mustermann, Blumenweg 1, 54321 Blumenstadt}
\setrecipient{
  Mustermann GmbH \& Co. KG \\
  Herrn Hans Mustermann \\
  Musterstr. 1 \\
  12345 Musterstadt
}
\setsubject{Subject}
\setplace{Musterstadt}
\setdate{\today}

\begin{document}
\begin{letter}{}
\opening{Sehr geehrter Herr Mustermann,}

This is a sample letter.

\closing{Mit freundlichen Gruessen}
\end{letter}
\end{document}
```

## 5 Options

Option	Meaning
<code>basic</code>	Plain layout without header and footer.
<code>modern</code>	Modern layout with header, footer, and accent color.
<code>guides</code>	Technical overlay mode for checking the calibrated layout zones, fold marks, and text start area. This mode is for inspection, not final production output.
<code>footercenter</code>	Center the footer in modern mode.
<code>blue, orange, green, red, purple, grey, burgundy, black</code>	Accent-color schemes for modern mode.

## 6 Main Commands

Command	Purpose
<code>\setreturnaddress{...}</code>	Mandatory one-line sender line for the address window.
<code>\setrecipient{...}</code>	Recipient block for the address window. Mandatory unless it is passed via <code>\begin{letter}{...}</code> .
<code>\setsubject{...}</code>	Subject line above the opening.
<code>\setdate{...}</code>	Date, defaulting to <code>\today</code> .
<code>\setplace{...}</code>	Place printed before the date.
<code>\setfromfirstname{...}</code>	Modern-mode first name for the header.
<code>\setfromlastname{...}</code>	Modern-mode last name for the header.
<code>\setfromaddress{...}</code>	Modern-mode address line in the header.

Command	Purpose
<code>\setfromlandline{...}</code>	Optional modern-mode footer field.
<code>\setfromphone{...}</code>	Optional modern-mode footer field.
<code>\setfromemail{...}</code>	Optional modern-mode footer field.
<code>\setfromweb{...}</code>	Optional modern-mode footer field.
<code>\setfromlinkedin{...}</code>	Optional modern-mode footer field.
<code>\setfromname{...}</code>	Legacy fallback if first and last name are not split.

## 7 Validation and Layout Guarantees

The class validates the mandatory address-window fields when a letter starts. Compilation stops with a clear error if the return address is missing, the recipient is missing, or the return address is too long for the single-line sender zone.

For multipage letters, the address-window overlay, fold marks, and optional modern header and footer are restricted to page 1. Continuation pages start near the normal top margin instead of inheriting the first-page window offset.

## 8 Calibration

The layout is calibrated against the practical preview behavior of [onlinebrief24.de](http://onlinebrief24.de), not only against the nominal measurement graphic. In practice, the class uses effective window zones of 50–52 mm, 52–72 mm, and 72–92 mm to match the real preview more closely.

## 9 Examples

The package ships with example documents covering:

- the plain layout
- the modern layout

## 10 License and Project Status

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