

Suppose you have a book that has mostly long footnotes, but occasionally there is a page with short footnotes. A way of dealing with this would be to use the `fnote` macro on most pages, and a modified version of the `fnpara` macro on the pages with the short footnotes.¹ On the page with short footnotes you type `\pfootnote{this is a footnote}` instead of `\footnote{this is a footnote}`. If you use `\pfootnote` and `\footnote` on the same page you will end up with two footnote inserts at the bottom of the page, which looks strange.²

1. You have to give `fnpara` its own footnote insert (`\pfootins`). If both footnote macros use the same `\footins` they conflict with each other with peculiar results. The `fnote` macro uses the normal `\footins`.
2. Unless you actually want more than one `\footins`. You could use this method of multiple `\footins` to typeset documents that use multiple series of footnotes. This is how the EDMAC macros for critical editions work with their `\Afootins`, `\Bfootins`, etc series of inserts.

A page¹ with short² footnotes.³

1. something something 2. blah 3. etc

Some style guides (e.g. Hart's Rules) specify that if there is only one single-line footnote on a page, it should be centered in the measure.¹ I typeset this example by using a modified version of the `fnote` macro, with `\leftskip` and `\rightskip` both set to `0pt plus 1fill` and the paragraph indent cancelled with `\noindent`.

1. like this