

# *BorderLiner*

*An extension for LibreOffice to draw borders in Calc and Writer tables  
and other objects just with a couple of key strokes*



BorderLiner - V 2.1.2  
by dhiller (Dietmar Hiller)  
This edition: 04-Feb-12  
First edition: 5-Aug-06

The extension BorderLiner is available at  
<http://extensions.libreoffice.org/extension-center/borderliner>

Dokumentation is at <http://www.divmondes.de> > La Conoscenza



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## Overview

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BorderLiner provides a simple method to draw borders in tables and some text elements in LibreOffice Calc and Writer.

Select the line style in the toolbar, use the dialog to define the color. Then activate the extension (left most button). Now imagine the numerical key pad of your PC to be a table. "2" marks the bottom border, "8" the top and so on. Select the cells, press ALT+2 to draw a bottom line, CTRL+2 to pick the linestyle of the bottom line or SHIFT+2 to delete the bottom line etc.

~~In Calc you can also use the mouse to draw a borderline. Just release the left mouse button in the vicinity of the border. This functionality is temporarily de-activated.~~

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The Original Documentation is "BorderLiner". The Initial Writer(s) of the Original Documentation is Dietmar Hiller© 2006-2012. All Rights Reserved. (Initial Writer contact(s): provider: gmx in Germany (.de), user-ID: dhiller1)

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[*Note: a copy of the PDL is included in this template and is also available at:*  
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The herein described extension BorderLiner is released under GPL3.

### Feedback

Suggestions for improvement of the extension and the documentation are more than welcome!

Please contact me at (sorry for the spam-prove) provider: gmx in Germany (.de), user-ID: dhiller1.

This extension is free of charge to you. Nevertheless, to satisfy my curiosity I would be glad to receive an electronic post-card of your home town, if you like and use this extension.

## Modifications and updates

Version	Date	Description of Change
0.1	05-Aug-06	Initial edition issued with basic functionality
0.2	22-Aug-06	Added dialog to set line style Added option to set borders for entire table or for each cell Improved border functionality Improved installation creates toolbar with button
1.0	26-Sept-06	Added drawing capabilities to text tables and other text elements Improved installer (requires OOo 2.0.3 or later) Added feature to pick line style The macro now terminates when the document is closed
1.1	16-Dec-06	Added using with hidden dialog Memorizes dialog position
1.2	08-Feb-07	Allow multiple selections in CALC sheets
1.3	10-Mar-07	Providing a selection of line styles with preview Substitution of color model of RGB by HSL, which is more intuitive.
1.3.1	25-Apr-07	Bugfix for OpenOffice.org 2.2 distributed with Ubuntu 7.04
2.0	03-Feb-08	rewritten in Java to use enhanced features, such as: extended toolbar and improved stability
2.1	07-Jul-08	mouse action added for Calc support for multiple cell ranges in Calc localized (de, en, it, fr) ColorChooser and OooRegistry separated as opensource packages Bugfix: applying borders to multi-format selections
2.1.1	23-Feb-11	Intermediate bugfix release for LibreOffice 3.3.1. Temporarily de-activation of mouse handling. Partly Localization added: nl cosmetics
2.1.2	04-Feb-12	Improved Usability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dropdownbox for Cell/Table,</li> <li>• Usage of new borderlines</li> </ul>

## Installation

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### **Minimum Requirements**

OpenOffice.org 2.2 or LibreOffice 3.3.1

Recommended is minimal version OpenOffice.org 2.3. On previous versions, some cosmetic features might not work.

Java Runtime Engine (JRE)

e.g. OpenJDK6

This extension was tested on

- Debian Squeeze with LibreOffice 3.4.3 and OpenJDK6

If your system does not support these minimal requirements, please consider also Version 2.0 (only English user interface) or the Basic version 1.3.1.

### **Process**

Together with this documentation, you will have received the installation file *BorderLiner.oxt*.

For installation, start OpenOffice.org and go to the menu item **Tools > Extension Manger**. Select **Add** *BorderLiner.oxt*.

Close and restart LibreOffice.

You will find a new toolbar **BorderLiner** in **View > Toolbars** in your applications **Calc** and **Writer**.

# Usage

## Elements of the Toolbar

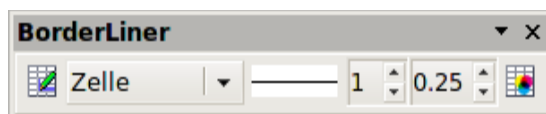


Image 1: Toolbar

Note that the appearance of the dialog and the toolbar may differ from those shown here, because they have been translated (localized) into various languages.

The toolbar contains from left to right:

- Button to activate the extension
- Selection where to apply the borderline to: each cell or the entire table
- Preview of the selected line style
- Number to select the line style
- Linewidth in points
- Button to select line color

## Defining the line style

Choose one of the 14 predefined line styles:

Number	Linestyle
0	NONE
1	SOLID
2	DOTTED
3	DASHED
4	DOUBLE
5	THINTHICK_SMALLGAP
6	THINTHICK_MEDIUMGAP
7	THINTHICK_LARGE GAP
8	THICKTHIN_SMALLGAP
9	THICKTHIN_MEDIUMGAP
10	THICKTHIN_LARGE GAP
11	EMBOSSSED
12	ENGRAVED
13	OUTSET
14	INSET

The line style is shown in the toolbar.

## Defining the color

With the dialog, the color of the line can be defined:

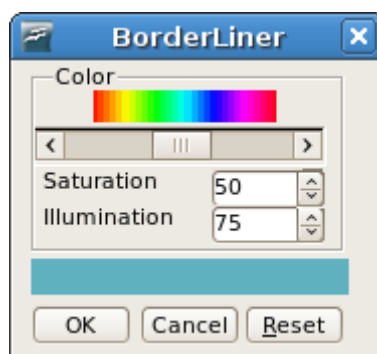


Image 2: Dialog

- `Color: hue, saturation, illumination`  
Defines the color of the line. The color is shown in the bar below. Hue defines the basic color. The lower the saturation of a color, the more "grayness" is present and the more faded the color will appear. Reducing the illumination darkens the color.  
For gray colors (including black and white), set the saturation to 0 and adjust from black to white with `illumination`. Hue has no significance here.
- `OK`  
The dialog is terminated and the color memorized.
- `Cancel`  
The dialog is terminated and the color ignored.
- `Reset`  
Resets the dialog to the initial color.

The settings of the dialog are kept as long as LibreOffice is running. When you re-open the dialog, the previous settings are shown.

## Drawing the borders

### Selection

Activate the extension by pressing the left most button in the toolbar.

Select the table or the element you want to apply the border to.

In Calc, also multiple ranges of cells can be selected. If you want to apply to a table, it is sufficient to select the first and last element of the table.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Analyst Statements</b>				
2	<b>Date (Month/Year)</b>	<b>Analyst</b>	<b>Estimated Market Share</b>	<b>Market Details</b>	
3	December 2003	Jupiter Research	6,00%	Small and Medium Businesses in North America	
4	March 2004	Forrester	8,50%	out of 140 major North America companies	
5	October 2005	Yankee Group	19,00%	Small and Medium Businesses	
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

Image 3: Multiple Selections

Row 2 and 5 have been selected. The thick line has been applied to both ranges.

### With Keystrokes

Now imagine your numeric keypad to be your table. The following key strokes correspond to the lines of the table or cell:

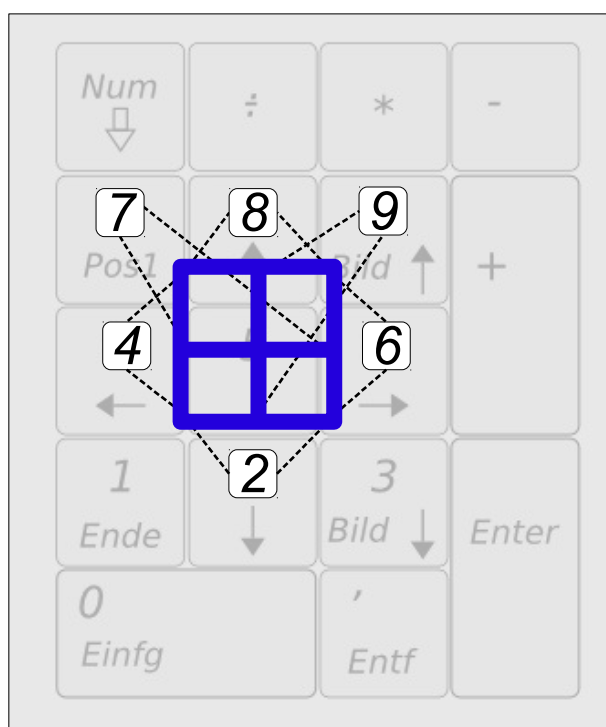


Image 4: Keystrokes for Table

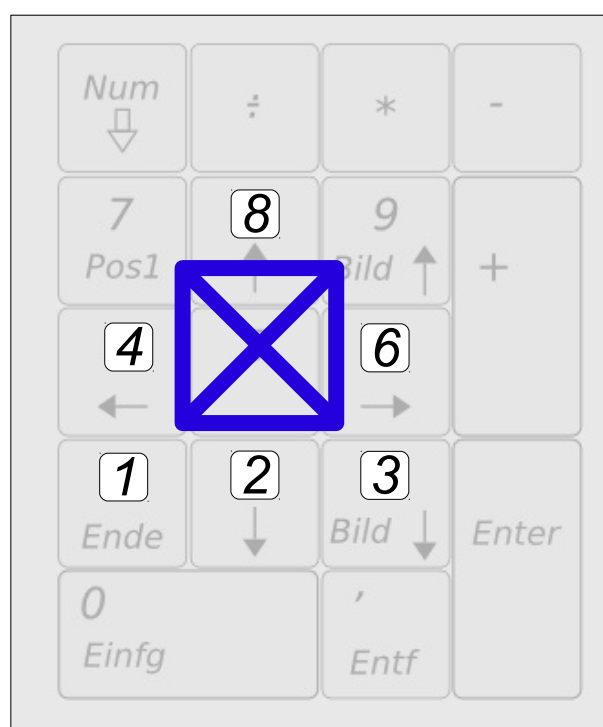


Image 5: Keystrokes for Cells

Always 2, 4, 6 and 8 stands for the bottom, left, right and top line. For tables 7 means the horizontal lines and 9 the vertical lines inside the table, whereas for cells 1 and 3 mean the diagonal lines in Calc cells. An underlying numeric keypad is shown to ease memorizing the key strokes.

To draw a line, just press the `ALT` key together with the corresponding number key, e.g. `ALT+2` to draw the bottom line.

Deleting a line can be done by holding the `SHIFT` key and pressing the corresponding key. Also setting the line style to 0 is possible.





In LibreOffice the borderline belongs to a cell and not to the border between the two adjacent cells. This means that a line that was drawn as a bottom line of one cell cannot be cleared by removing the top line of the cell below.

If a feature is not available (e.g. diagonal line in tables), the key stroke is ignored.



While the extension is active, the application can be used as usual. Only the keys ALT/CTRL/SHIFT+0 to 9 are not available.

The functionality is terminated by pressing the `ESC` key in the document or by toggling the button.

### With the mouse

~~In Calc the border can also be drawn with the mouse. If you release the left mouse button in the vicinity of a cell border, that borderline is drawn. Note that you can also select a group of cells. The line is drawn for all cells (if applied to Cell) or for the table (if applied to Table).~~

~~Clicking in the center of the cell allows to select the cell as usual. This feature is temporarily deactivated.~~

### Picking a line style

It is possible to get the border line style from cells if you want to apply the same borders to other cells.

Press a number key in the cell whose line style you want to copy together with CTRL (e.g. CTRL-2 for bottom line). The border settings are read to the toolbar.

The same keystrokes as for drawing a borderline are also valid here.

The line style is valid for the entire LibreOffice environment, simplifying the copying of borderline styles between documents.



Because the borderline belongs to a cell and not to the border between the two adjacent cells, a line that was drawn as a bottom line of one cell could be different to the top line of the cell below. Only one of the two is displayed and picked.

### Where the borders can be drawn

The toolbar is only available in *Writer* and in *Calc*.

#### Calc

A `Cell` in Calc is the individual cell, whereas the `Table` is the entire selection. Therefore, with `apply to set to Cell`, e.g. a bottom line would be drawn to each cell of the selection, whereas if set to `Table`, each selection is taken as one table and only the bottom cells would have a bottom line drawn.

#### Writer

In Writer, selecting a range of cells and choosing `Cell`, assigns the borderline to that range, not to each cell of the range. So the behavior is identical to choosing `Table` in *Calc*.

`Table` marks the entire table, the cursor is in, independent of the selection.

2006-07-08	2006-07-15	2006-07-22
49.684	35.045	31.271
15.061	13.106	13.997

Image 6: Drawing borders in Writer tables

The black borders were drawn by placing the cursor in the table and applying the keystrokes to the table. The blue double line was created by selecting the first row of the table and applying the keystrokes to the cells.

Additionally to Writer tables, borders can also be drawn to other elements:

to simple paragraphs

Make sure to set some space below the paragraph in the `format` menu, otherwise the line might not be visible.

to  
frames



## Impress and Draw

BorderLiner does not work in *Impress* and *Draw* on tables, text frames in *Draw* and *Impress*. These frames are drawing-objects and the borderline is realized with a different feature.

## Customization

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The feature to draw lines with the mouse can be turned on or off.

Open the oxt-file with a program that can handle zip-files. Extract the file BLRegistry.xcu. You find an entry

```
<prop oor:name="MouseHandling">
  <value>true</value>
</prop>
```

Replace the value "true" by "false". Save the file and insert it into the oxt-file, replacing the original file. Then re-install the extension.

## Localization

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You can easily have BorderLiner in your language:

- add your translation in the column under „language-COUNTRY“
- define your language and country (e.g. „de“ for German, „DE“ for Germany)
- send it to the author

- It will be included in the next release

In case your language has already been translated and you do not agree with some terms, add another column. The majority will then decide.

Location	Text en	Language-COUNTRY	de-DE	it	fr	nl_NL
Toolbar	Cell		Zelle	cella	cellule	Element
	Table		Tabelle	tabella	tableau	Tabel
	Linestyle preview		Linienstil Vorschau	Visualizzazione dello stilo della linea	Aperçu du style de la ligne	Lijnstijl voorbeeld
	Linestyle		Linienstil	lo stilo della linea	le style de la ligne	Boordlijnstijl
	Linewidth		Linienbreite			
	Select Color		Farbe auswählen	Selezionare il colore	Sélectionner le couleur	Selecteer Kleur
Color dialog	Color		Farbton	Colore	Couleur	Kleur
	Saturation		Sättigung	Saturazione	Saturation	Stauratie
	Saturation [0..100], for gray set Saturation=0		Sättigung [0..100], 0 für grau	Saturazione [0..100], per il grigio selezionare „0“	Saturation [0.. 100], „0“ pour gris	Stauratie [0,100] voor Grijs zet saturatie op 0
	Illumination		Helligkeit	Luminosità	Luminosité	Helderheid
	Value / Illumination [0..100]		Wert / Helligkeit [0..100]	Luminosità [0..100]	Luminosité [0..100]	Waarde/ Helderheid [0.100]
	Preview		Vorschau	Visualizzazione	Aperçu	Voorbeeld
	OK		OK	Accetta	OK	
	Apply Color		Farbe übernehmen	accettare il colore	Appliquer le couleur	
	Cancel		Abbruch	Annula	Annuler	
	Reset		Zurück	Reset	Reset	
	Reset to initial color		auf ursprüngliche Farbe zurücksetzen	reset al colore iniziale	Remettre au couleur initial	

## What's next?

- Version 2.1.3: bug fixes
  - get mouse handling to work again
  - Could tables in impress and draw be made to work as well?
  - fixind some bugs that are present in LibreOffice.
  - in Calc: if apply-to is a table and multiple regions are selected, the 2<sup>nd</sup> selection gets all the line-styles from the 1<sup>st</sup> selection as well (requires first some bugs fixed in LibreOffice)
- Version 2.2: please vote
  - maybe BorderLiner in your language? - easy
  - maybe better mouse drawing feature using drawing-layer? - needs investigation
    - idea to implement additionally: identify area of mouse click and release to identify which border to draw. Can be applied to table or cell. No preview. Allow also corners for e.g. top-left or bottom-right.
    - counter-check if mouse-handler now allows CTRL or SHIFT keys to be read
  - maybe LibreOffice color palette? - huge effort
  - maybe options dialog? - big effort, little benefit
  - maybe using keystrokes to use the extension? - up to now, the OOo developers said it's only possible to assign fixed key strokes, that cannot be adapted in the customization dialog.
- Known issues that cannot or are not planned to be resolved
  - The mouse handler currently does not support interpretation of key modifiers such as CTRL or SHIFT (see discussion <http://api.openoffice.org/servlets/ReadMsg?listName=dev&msgNo=19252> and feature request

[http://qa.openoffice.org/issues/show\\_bug.cgi?id=91439](http://qa.openoffice.org/issues/show_bug.cgi?id=91439)), so picking and deleting lines per mouse click is not possible.

- Using BorderLiner with tables does not work properly because tables do not yet have implemented the BorderLine2 functionality. On the other side, cells would not work properly because they rely on BorderLine2: [https://bugs.freedesktop.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=45645](https://bugs.freedesktop.org/show_bug.cgi?id=45645)
- In double lines, the top line shows in Writer the one in the internal part of the cell, whereas it is the top or left one in Calc. See also issue [https://bugs.freedesktop.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=45644](https://bugs.freedesktop.org/show_bug.cgi?id=45644) .

## Acknowledgments

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Ariel Constenla-Haile for helping me instantly on many topics

Max Giesbert for providing the code, that was used as base for implementing the mouse handler in Calc

the people in the mailing lists of <http://api.openoffice.org/> and <http://extensions.openoffice.org/>, especially to Jürgen Schmidt.