

Proposed LibreOffice Spacing Tool.

Background

Before I started using LibreOffice many years ago, in Windows, there was a specific tool that was very handy. The feature allowed one to draw a 'scale bar' along a straight edge such that I could mark out equi-distance segments.

Examples: You are marking out a landscape and need to equally space trees/shrubs between two points; You are doing leather work and need to mark out the stitching holes evenly along an edge; You are doing tech drawings and need to space evenly the screw holes, etc. Or, inversely, you find a drawing online with equi-distant marking lines already on it, such as a craft template, (but no numbers), but wish to expand/shrink the drawing to fit your existing scale. Many uses come to mind.

The Grid feature is not scalable on the fly, can't be moved around, nor can several scales be used in one drawing.

Current solution

I currently do this manually by creating a row of squares, then group them together in a line then use that as a scale ruler. Fiddly.

Proposal.

I have included visuals below (including adjustment handles) to show how I propose this new feature looks and functions. I would place this tool next to the Dimensions tool under Lines and Arrows section.

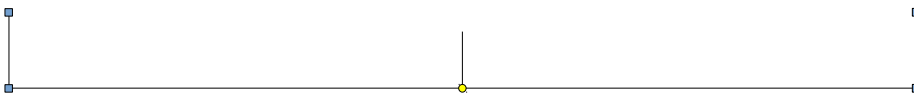
Examples shown are all 24 units long (more division options). End lines are 2 units high, mid line is 1.5, and additional lines are 1 unit. I propose leaving the middle line slightly higher for better visual aid.

Current method I use for equi-distant scaling (row of squares):

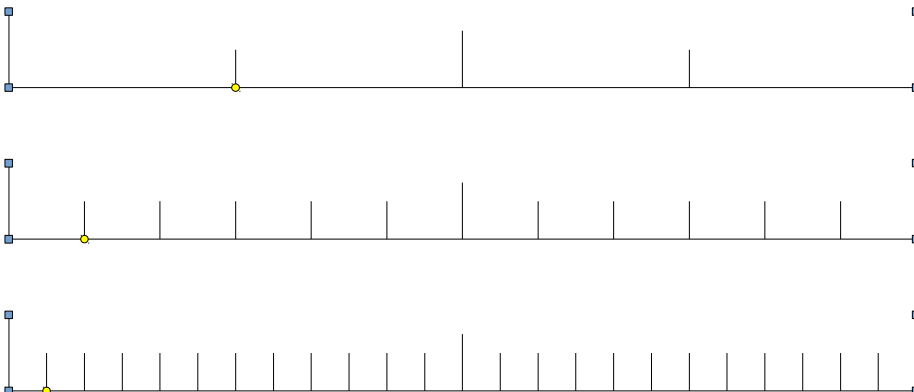


Proposed tool

Upon first drawing, end middle points are taller, (yellow) adjustment handle is set to middle:



Sliding the (yellow) handle to one side (could slide either side) 'fills in' extra lines equally:



Using this tool will allow one to do different equi-distant spacings within one drawing. E.g., a 20 cm bar of steel has holes spaced at 2cm apart for the first 10 cm, but 1.5 cm apart for the next 10 cm. For that, you could simple join two of these drawing tools together with the different spacings in each tool. The options are endless!

Uncertainties.

Under Windows, you could raise/lower the segment lines from being barely visible along the bottom right up to all lines being the same height (like a 'comb'). Not sure where/how that handle would be placed and work.

Anyway, that is my, hopefully somewhat thought out, proposal. I look forward to seeing the outcome.

Regards, Grant.