The doafter* package

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1 Description

1.1 What it's all about

`\doafter` It's common for the TEX primitive `\aftergroup` to be used to 'tidy up' after a group. For example, LATEX's colour handling uses this to insert appropriate `\special`s when the scope of a colour change ends. This causes several problems, though; for example, extra grouping must be added within boxes to ensure that the `\special`s don't 'leak' out of their box and appear in odd places in the document. LATEX usually solves this problem by reading the box contents as an argument, although this isn't particularly desirable. The `\doafter` macro provided here will solve the problem in a different way, by allowing a macro to regain control after all the `\aftergroup` things have been processed.

The macro works like this:

⟨*doafter-cmd*⟩ ::= ⟶ `\doafter` – ⟨*token*⟩ – ⟨*group*⟩ ⟶

The ⟨*token*⟩ can be any token you like, except an explicit braces, since it's read as an undelimited macro argument. The ⟨*group*⟩ is a normal TEX group, surrounded by either implicit or explicit braces, or by `\begingroup` and `\endgroup` tokens.

*The doafter package is currently at version 1.2, dated 8 May 1996.

†Peter came up with the basic implementation after I posed the problem in the `comp.text.tex` newsgroup. I fixed some really piddly little things, to improve it a bit, wrote the documentation, and turned the code into a nice docced package. Then Peter gave me an updated version, and I upgraded this from memory. Then he gave me some more tweaks which I haven't incorporated.

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