Relative, the default: each tabulation steps the pen on by 7.5% of the column from where it stands, so the rows do not line up.

Reference	Category	Quantity	Unit price
A-1180	Binding	12	18.50
B-2050	Cover	4	7.05
C-9004	Paper	120	1 250.00

Typewriter: each tabulation lands on the next multiple of 96 points, so the rows line up on that grid.

Reference	Category	Quantity	Unit price
A-1180	Binding	12	18.50
B-2050	Cover	4	7.05
C-9004	Paper	120	1 250.00

Ruler: a stop of its own for each tabulation, the second centred on it and the third lined up on its decimal point, the heading, which carries none, ending on the stop.

Reference	Category	Quantity	Unit price
A-1180	Binding	12	18.50
B-2050	Cover	4	7.05
C-9004	Paper	120	1 250.00

A ruler stop at the far edge, the run ending on it and the leader filling the room the tabulation opened.

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The same stop, the leader a spaced dot in grey set on a grid, so its dots stand in the same columns on every line.

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Relative, told so, each tabulation stepping the pen on by 15% of the column: steps twice as long, the rows still out of line.

Reference	Category	Quantity	Unit price
A-1180	Binding	12	18.50
B-2050	Cover	4	7.05
C-9004	Paper	120	1 250.00

Ruler, its third stop lining the prices up on a decimal comma rather than on a full stop.

Reference	Category	Quantity	Unit price
A-1180	Binding	12	18,50
B-2050	Cover	4	7,05
C-9004	Paper	120	1 250,00

The leader laid from the far edge inwards: the room its repeats do not fill is left against the words.

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The leader stretched: as many whole dots as fit, spread from one end of the room to the other.

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The leader laid from the words outwards, a dash in a smaller size raised off the baseline.

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