

Script NCBP — Number Chaber by Chapter

NCBP numbers footnotes by chapter across the files of a multi-text (Chaber) project. It runs after pagination, reads Chaber's combined file, and updates every source file to match — so the whole book carries one clean per-chapter numbering.

WHAT IS NCBP?

What is Chaber

In a multi-text project, several texts sit on the page together, each with its own footnotes. However, having several different blocks of footnotes is messy and cluttered. This is where Chaber comes in. Chaber combines all of those footnotes into one file — the *mechubar* — and numbers them continuously through the book as one block of footnotes.

What is missing

Many works want the footnotes to restart at 1 in each chapter, and Chaber has no way to do that: it does not work by chapter. That restart is harder than it looks. Because the combined file interleaves footnotes from every text, page by page, you cannot simply number each source file on its own — a footnote's number depends on what the other texts contributed before it in that chapter.

What is NCBP's role

NCBP solves exactly this: it works out the correct per-chapter numbering and pushes it back into every file, so the combined file and all the source files agree.

The screenshot shows the NCBP application window with the title bar 'NCBP'. The main window has a title bar with standard window controls. The content area is titled '---- Number "Chaber" Files by Chapter ----'. It is divided into three main sections: 'PHASE 1 · INSERT MARKERS', 'PHASE 2 · FIND / FIX', and 'PHASE 3 · RENUMBER'. In the 'PHASE 1' section, there is a 'Mechubar File' dropdown menu set to 'Fn_M'. Below it are two rows for 'File 1' and 'File 2', each with a dropdown menu (set to 'Fn_H' and 'Fn_B' respectively) and a 'Ref' input field (set to '11' and '12' respectively). There are 'Add File' and 'Remove Selected' buttons. Below these are three input fields: 'Reference of chapter' (set to 'A'), 'Reference of new link' (set to '22'), and 'Code to insert by problem pages' (set to 'E!'). A 'Must be numbered' label is next to the 'Reference of chapter' field. There are 'Insert Markers' and 'Clear Markers' buttons. The 'PHASE 2' section has a status bar 'Done - No problems' and buttons for 'Find Problems', 'Follow Link', and 'Apply Fixes'. The 'PHASE 3' section has a 'Renummer All Files' button. At the bottom is an 'Exit' button.

NCBP

---- Number "Chaber" Files by Chapter ----

PHASE 1 · INSERT MARKERS

Mechubar File
Fn_M

File 1
Fn_H Ref 11

File 2
Fn_B Ref 12

Add File Remove Selected

Reference of chapter A Must be numbered

Reference of new link 22

Code to insert by problem pages E!

Insert Markers

Clear Markers

Done - No problems

PHASE 2 · FIND / FIX

Fix flagged pages by hand, then apply.

Find Problems Follow Link

Apply Fixes

PHASE 3 · RENUMBER

Renummer All Files

Exit

INSTALLATION

NCBP ships as a zip file. Extract it into your TAG folder and rename `ncbp.li_b` to `ncbp.lib`. The file should end up in the following location:

```
ncbp.lib    →    [TAG folder]
```

NCBP also requires our `dmd.lib` and TAG's `numfoot.prg` to be in your TAG folder.

To run NCBP, use the command:

```
run file "ncbp.lib"
```

BEFORE NCBP

NCBP is the last step in a specific sequence. It only works once the following are in place:

Pagination is complete — NCBP works off finished pages. Run it only after the project is fully paginated.

Chaber has built the combined file — NCBP reads Chaber's combined *mechubar* file to learn the correct order and numbering, then applies it to the source files. That file must exist before you begin.

Every file must have numbered chapters — NCBP numbers by chapter, so every file — the combined file and each source file — must contain numbered chapter markers. If a file has none, add them before you begin. (See **Chapters must be numbered** in [Notes and Limits](#).)

List the files in Chaber's order — When you set up the source files in NCBP, they must be listed in the **same order Chaber used to combine them**. That order is how footnotes are matched and numbered; if it does not match Chaber, the numbering comes out wrong.

Footnote markers must run in sequence — In each file, the footnote markers must be numbered as one continuous sequence, not restarted per chapter. If any file's markers are not sequential, renumber them in every file before you begin. (See **Footnote markers** in [Notes and Limits](#).)

Once all of that is in place, NCBP runs through all the files in one pass and places footnote markers beside each existing marker, numbered by chapter and matched across the files, flagging any pages that need your attention. The rest of this guide walks through each phase.

USING NCBP

The NCBP window is divided into three phases, top to bottom, and you work through them in order:

- **Phase 1 – Insert Markers.** Set up your files and lay down the new per-chapter numbering.
- **Phase 2 – Find / Fix.** Handle the few pages NCBP could not number automatically.
- **Phase 3 – Renumber.** Turn the new markers into the visible footnote numbers.

NCBP

---- Number "Chaber" Files by Chapter ----

PHASE 1 · INSERT MARKERS

Mechubar File
Fn_M

File 1
Fn_H Ref 11

File 2
Fn_B Ref 12

Add File Remove Selected

Reference of chapter A Must be numbered

Reference of new link 22

Code to insert by problem pages E!

Insert Markers

Clear Markers

Done - No problems

PHASE 2 · FIND / FIX

Fix flagged pages by hand, then apply.

Find Problems Follow Link

Apply Fixes

PHASE 3 · RENUMBER

Renumber All Files

Exit

Most projects move straight through Phase 1 to Phase 3. Phase 2 only comes into play in a book where chapters can begin in the middle of a page.

PHASE 1 — INSERT MARKERS

This is where you tell NCBP which files it is working with and what to look for, then let it lay down the new numbering.

Mechubar File — The combined file Chaber produced. NCBP reads this file to learn the correct order and per-chapter numbering. Choose it from the dropdown, which lists your open files.

Source files (File 1, File 2, ...) — The individual text files whose footnotes were combined into the *mechubar*. For each one, choose the file and enter its **Ref** — the reference number of the links that tie its footnotes to the combined file. Use **Add File** to add another source slot, and **Remove Selected** to remove the slot your cursor is currently in. List the files in the same order Chaber combined them.

Reference of chapter — The reference of your chapter markers — the same numbered markers you inserted. NCBP uses these to know where each chapter begins. If you leave this blank, NCBP uses TAG's default chapter reference.

Reference of new link — The link reference NCBP will use for the new markers it inserts. Choose a reference that is not already in use in these files.

Code to insert by problem pages — A code NCBP places at any link it cannot number automatically, so you can find those spots afterward (see **PHASE 2**). Choose a code that is not otherwise used.

Insert Markers — NCBP runs through all the files and places footnote markers beside each existing marker, correctly numbered by chapter and matched across all the files. (If it finds links it cannot resolve, it flags them and shows you a list. see **PHASE 2**)

Clear Markers — Removes every marker NCBP added and returns all files to their state before you ran it. Use it to start over, or to clean up when you are finished. Nothing here is permanent — **Clear Markers** followed by **Insert Markers** rebuilds everything from scratch.

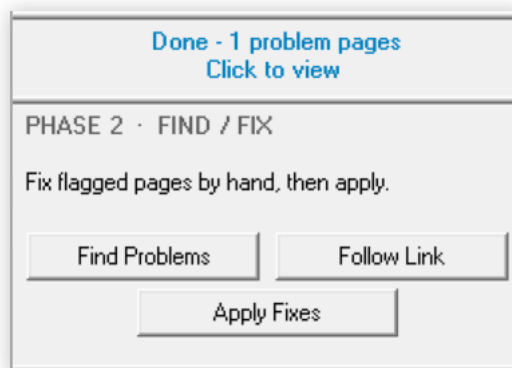
The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "PHASE 1 · INSERT MARKERS". It contains the following elements:

- A dropdown menu labeled "Mechubar File" with "Fn_M" selected.
- Two rows for source files:
 - "File 1" with a dropdown "Fn_H" and a text box "Ref" containing "11".
 - "File 2" with a dropdown "Fn_B" and a text box "Ref" containing "12".
- Two buttons: "Add File" and "Remove Selected".
- Three text boxes with labels to their left:
 - "Reference of chapter" with value "A" and a note "Must be numbered".
 - "Reference of new link" with value "22".
 - "Code to insert by problem pages" with value "E!".
- Two buttons at the bottom: "Insert Markers" and "Clear Markers".

PHASE 2 — FIND / FIX

This phase only matters in a book where a chapter can begin in the middle of a page. If every chapter starts on a new page, you can skip straight to Phase 3.

Most pages number automatically. The exception is a page where a chapter begins in the middle of it, with footnotes from both chapters sharing that page. NCBP cannot reorder footnotes for you — that is a manual operation — so it flags those pages and leaves them for you to fix.



Why these pages need attention — Chaber builds each page by taking all of the first text's footnotes, then all of the second text's footnotes, and so on. When a chapter changes in the middle of a page, that block-by-text order splits the chapter in a way no automatic pass can straighten out.

For example: page 100 changes from chapter 10 to chapter 11, and both texts have footnotes on that page. Because of the block-by-text order, the page comes out as the first text's chapter-10 notes, then its chapter-11 notes, then the second text's chapter-10 notes, then its chapter-11 notes — so the two chapters interleave out of order. Rather than number such a page incorrectly, NCBP marks it and moves on.

To fix a flagged page, reorder its footnotes by hand so that all of one chapter's notes come before the next chapter's, then rebuild with **Apply Fixes**. The two buttons below help you work through these pages:

Find Problems — Jumps to the next flagged spot in the combined file. Click it again to move to the following one. When there are no more ahead of the cursor, NCBP offers to search again from the top. NCBP also creates a report when the run finishes, listing every flagged page. This is accesible by clicking on the report section in the dialog.

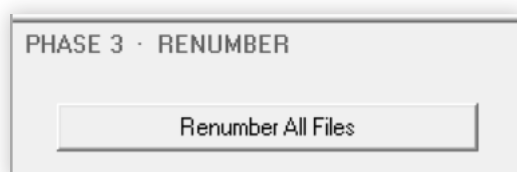
Script NCBP — Number Chaber by Chapter

Follow Link — A navigation aid. Working with footnotes, you constantly need to refer back to the main text to check which note belongs where — **Follow Link** makes that one click. Put your cursor on a footnote link in any file and click it; NCBP jumps to the same footnote in its counterpart file — from the combined file to the matching source file, or from a source file back to the combined file. It is the quickest way to line a footnote up across files while you fix a page.

Apply Fixes — After you have reordered the footnotes on the flagged pages, click **Apply Fixes**. NCBP redoes the entire numbering pass, clearing its old markers and rebuilding from the corrected order. Any page that is still out of order is flagged again — so when a run finishes with no flags, everything has been resolved.

PHASE 3 — RENUMBER

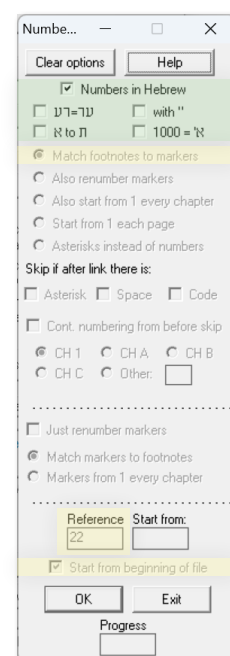
Inserting markers gives every footnote its correct per-chapter number, carried on the new markers. The final step turns those markers into the footnote numbers the reader sees.



Renumber All Files — Renumbers the combined file and every source file at once. The script uses TAG's numfoot script, opening its dialog with the correct settings already in place: it is set to match the footnotes to the new markers, on the right reference, for the whole file. You choose only the numbering style you want — Hebrew letters and so on — and NCBP applies that same style to every file. Set it once, and you do not have to run the renumber on each file yourself.

This step matches the footnote text to the markers; it does not renumber the links themselves. That is what keeps every file in agreement with the combined file.

When this finishes, the book is numbered from 1 in every chapter, consistently across all files.



NOTES AND LIMITS

File order — Important. The source files must be listed in the same order Chaber used to combine them. That order determines how footnotes are matched; a mismatch produces wrong numbers with no error.

Chapters must be numbered — Important. Every file must have numbered chapter markers. NCBP counts from the chapter numbers, so plain (unnumbered) markers will not work — if the numbering comes out wrong, check this first. Often the source files have no chapters of their own, only the main file does; our [CCBL](#) script (Copy Chapters By Links) adds them easily.

Chapter reference — The chapter reference field tells NCBP which markers are your chapters. If you leave it blank, NCBP uses TAG's default chapter reference. Whatever you use, it must match the chapter markers actually present in the files.

Footnote markers — Important. NCBP identifies each footnote by its marker number and matches footnotes across the files by that number. This only works if every file's markers run in a single continuous sequence, as they do in a freshly combined project. If a file's markers restart at 1 each chapter — or are otherwise not one running sequence — NCBP will mismatch footnotes and the numbering will be wrong. Renumber the markers sequentially in every file before running NCBP; TAG's numfoot script can do this.

Problem pages — NCBP numbers every page it can, but it cannot reorder footnotes. When a chapter starts in the middle of a page and footnotes from multiple chapters share it, NCBP flags the page instead of numbering it, and you reorder those footnotes by hand. Once they are in order, you can renumber by pressing **Apply Fixes**. This is the only part of the process that is not automatic. (See **PHASE 2**.)

Fully reversible — Nothing NCBP does is locked in. **Clear Markers** removes all of NCBP's markers and restores the files to their prior state, and re-running **Insert Markers** rebuilds cleanly. You can run, clear, and re-run as many times as you need.

Where NCBP fits — NCBP is one step in a larger workflow — after pagination and Chaber, with numbered chapters in place. It does not replace Chaber and does not add chapters.