

# Reduce unnecessary forced breaks

**break-before** and **break-after** force a page break or column break. However, 'axf:break-distance' reduces unnecessary breaks by disabling 'break-before' and 'break-after' if there is sufficient space on the page. 'axf:break-distance' is specified as either a length or a percentage of the height of the containing block. A page break or column break specified by 'break-before' or 'break-after' is enabled only when the height of the remaining area is less than the 'axf:break-distance' height. If the height of the remaining area is greater than the height specified by 'axf:break-distance', no page breaks or column breaks are made. 'axf: break-distance' is available in Antenna House Formatter V7.3 and later.

In the next page, **break-before: column;** is specified on blocks in a two-column page. If only **break-before: column;** is specified, the column breaks there. However, if 'axf:break-distance' is also specified, the height of the column will determine whether or not to break the column.

There are two columns here.

The block has **break-before: column**, which normally forces a column break. This caused the large space in the previous column.

The following three blocks are identical.

This block has **-ah-break-distance: 30%**; . A forced break occurs only if the height of the remaining area is less than the **-ah-break-distance** value.

This block has **break-before: column;** and **-ah-break-distance: 30%;** A forced break occurs only if the height of the remaining area is less than the **-ah-break-distance** value.

This block has **break-before: column;**  
and **-ah-break-distance: 30%.** A  
forced break occurs only if the height of the  
remaining area is less than the **-ah-**  
**break-distance** value.