

[Description](#)  
[Options](#)

[Quick start](#)  
[Remarks and examples](#)

[Menu](#)  
[Stored results](#)

[Syntax](#)  
[Also see](#)

## Description

`collect combine` combines separate collections into a single new collection.

## Quick start

Create new collection `newc` by combining existing collections `c1`, `c2`, and `c3`

```
collect combine newc = c1 c2 c3
```

Same as above, but use the layout defined in the rightmost collection, `c3`

```
collect combine newc = c1 c2 c3, layout(right)
```

Same as above, but use the style defined in the rightmost collection, `c3`

```
collect combine newc = c1 c2 c3, layout(right) style(right)
```

## Menu

[Statistics](#) > [Summaries, tables, and tests](#) > [Tables and collections](#) > [Combine collections](#)

## Syntax

```
collect combine newname = cnamelist [ , options ]
```

where *newname* is the name of the new collection and *cnamelist* is a list of names of existing collections.

<i>options</i>	Description
Main	
replace	overwrite <i>newname</i> if it exists
Options	
layout(left   right)	specify the collection whose layout is to be used; default is layout(left)
style(left   right)	specify the collection whose style is to be used; default is style(left)
label(left   right)	specify the collection whose labels are to be used; default is label(left)
[no]warn	display notes when encountering unrecognized tags

## Options

### Main

replace permits collect combine to overwrite *newname* if it already exists. This option is required if the new collection already exists and is not empty.

### Options

layout(left | right) specifies the collection whose layout will be used in the new collection.

layout(left) is the default; it applies the layout from the leftmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection.

layout(right) applies the layout from the rightmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection.

style(left | right) specifies the collection whose style will be used in the new collection.

style(left) is the default; it applies the style definitions from the leftmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection.

style(right) applies the style definitions from the rightmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection.

label(left | right) specifies the collection whose labels will be used in the new collection.

label(left) is the default; it applies the labels from the leftmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection.

label(right) applies the labels from the rightmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection.

warn and nowarn control the display of notes when collect encounters a tag it does not recognize.

warn, the default, specifies that collect show the notes.

nowarn specifies that collect not show the notes.

These options override the collect\_warn setting; see [TABLES] set collect\_warn.

## Remarks and examples

`collect combine` combines existing collections into a new collection. The new collection becomes the **current collection**.

The `label()`, `layout()`, and `style()` options specify whether `collect` should apply the labels, layout, and style from the leftmost or rightmost collection specified. The default is to apply the style, layout, and labels from the leftmost collection in *cnamelist* to the new collection. This is equivalent to specifying `label(left)`, `layout(left)`, and `style(left)`. If any of these attributes is not defined in the leftmost collection, `collect` will search for that attribute in the collections listed in *cnamelist*, from left to right. However, if the rightmost collection is specified with any of these options, and that attribute is not defined in the rightmost collection, `collect` will search for that attribute in the collections listed, from right to left.

For example, we create a collection called `new` by combining the collections `c1`, `c2`, `c3`, and `c4`.

```
. collect combine new = c1 c2 c3 c4
```

If collection `c1` has an empty style, `collect` will apply the style from `c2` to the new collection. If `c2` also has an empty style, `collect` will apply the style from `c3`.

Suppose that we instead type the following:

```
. collect combine new = c1 c2 c3 c4, style(right)
```

`collect` will apply the style from collection `c4` to the collection `new`. If collection `c4` has an empty style, `collect` will apply the style from `c3` to the new collection.

## Stored results

`collect combine` stores the following in `s()`:

Macros

```
s(current)      name of new collection
s(collections)  list of combined collections
```

## Also see

[TABLES] [collect use](#) — Use a collection from disk

[TABLES] [collect save](#) — Save a collection to disk

Stata, Stata Press, Mata, NetCourse, and NetCourseNow are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow is a trademark of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2025 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.



For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).