

## SAS Learning Post

Technical tips and tricks from SAS instructors, authors and other SAS experts.

# Jedi SAS Tricks - Make This a Button in Base SAS



Mark Jordan | MAY 1, 2016 | [Edit](#)

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A recent post, [Jedi SAS Tricks: The DATA to DATA Step Macro](#), engendered a lot of response on Twitter. One of the re-tweets included a call to action:



**Sam Van Horne**  
@LearningPlaces



Following

Jedi MASTER SAS Trick, I'd say. Make this a button in base SAS!

**SAS Software** @SASsoftware

Jedi SAS Tricks: The DATA to DATA Step Macro [2.sas.com/6017B91vS](https://2.sas.com/6017B91vS) #SASusers

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5:02 PM - 24 Mar 2016



Well, Sam, I aim to please! Now, I'm not the guy who builds the SAS Windowing Environment interface, but if you are running PC SAS, I can show you how to customize your tool bar to do just that: make this macro execute from a button. First, we'll change the name of this macro to Data2DataStepButton and I'll add a bit of code to the beginning of the macro to provide a dialog box to accept input for the macro parameters. Make sure to save the code for this macro to a file named data2datastepbutton.sas somewhere in your SASAUTOS path. The remainder of the code is the same as the original Data2DataStep macro.

```
%macro Data2DataStepButton(dsn,lib,file,obs);  
  %local varlist msgtype ;  
  %window Data2DataStep columns=80 rows=20  
  # 3 @ 6 'Libref:                ' lib 41 attr=underline  
  # 5 @ 6 'Data Set:              ' dsn 41 attr=underline  
  # 7 @ 6 'Program file name:     ' file 50 attr=underline  
  # 9 @ 6 'Number of Observations: ' obs 3 attr=underline  
  #12 @ 6 'Press ENTER to continue';  
  %display Data2DataStep;  
  ...  
%mend
```

Now let's customize the toolbar in PC SAS to add a button that executes this macro.

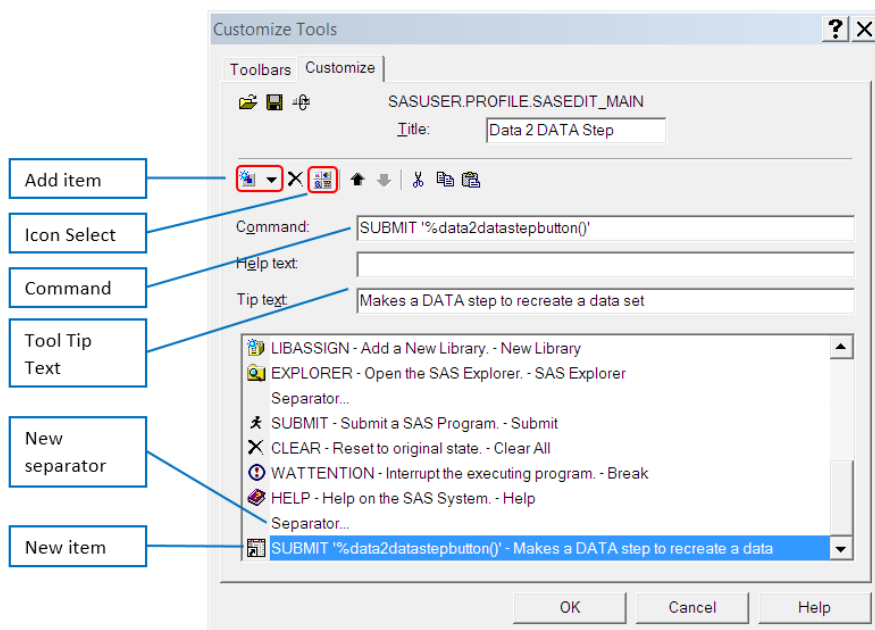
Step 1: Right click on an empty spot on the SAS toolbar, and choose "Customize" from the pop-up menu.

Step 2: In the dialog window, choose the Customize tab.

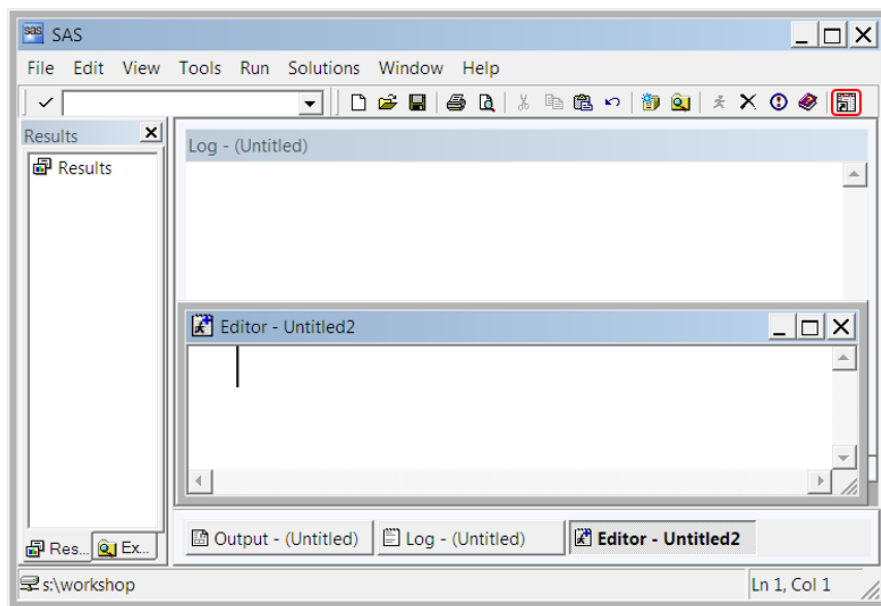
Step 3: Use the Add Item button to add a new separator and a blank tool at the bottom of the list. You can use the up/down arrow buttons to re-arrange items if necessary.

Step 4: Choose an icon to display on the toolbar using the Icon Select button.

Step 5: Give your new tool a title, command to execute and some tool tip text to make it easier to remember what the button does. When finished, the dialog will look something like this:



Step 6: Click OK and, when asked if you want to save your changes, click Yes. Your new button should appear on the SAS toolbar.



To test your button, click on it! The macro dialog will appear. Fill in some values and press ENTER to generate your SAS program:

