
NSToolbarItem Class Reference

[Cocoa](#) > [User Experience](#)



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Apple Inc.
1 Infinite Loop
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-996-1010

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Contents

NSToolbarItem Class Reference 5

Overview	5
Adopted Protocols	5
Tasks	6
Creating a Toolbar Item	6
Managing Attributes	6
Visibility Priority	7
Validation	7
Controlling Duplicates	7
Instance Methods	8
action	8
allowsDuplicatesInToolbar	8
autovalidates	8
image	9
initWithItemIdentifier:	9
isEnabled	10
itemIdentifier	10
label	11
maxSize	11
menuFormRepresentation	12
minSize	12
paletteLabel	12
setAction:	13
setAutovalidates:	14
setEnabled:	14
setImage:	14
setLabel:	15
setMaxSize:	16
setMenuFormRepresentation:	16
setMinSize:	17
setPaletteLabel:	17
setTag:	18
setTarget:	18
setToolTip:	19
setView:	19
setVisibilityPriority:	20
tag	20
target	21
toolbar	21
toolTip	21
validate	22

- view 22
- visibilityPriority 23
- Constants 23
 - Standard Identifiers 23
 - Item Priority 24

Document Revision History 27

Index 29

NSToolbarItem Class Reference

Inherits from	NSObject
Conforms to	NSValidatedUserInterfaceItem NSCopying NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Toolbar Programming Topics for Cocoa
Declared in	NSToolbarItem.h
Related sample code	EnhancedDataBurn GridCalendar iSpend PDFKitLinker2 ToolbarSample

Overview

Each item in an NSToolbar is an instance of NSToolbarItem.

Adopted Protocols

NSCopying

- copyWithZone:

NSValidatedUserInterfaceItem

- action
- tag

Tasks

Creating a Toolbar Item

- [initWithItemIdentifier:](#) (page 9)
Initialize the receiver with a given identifier.

Managing Attributes

- [itemIdentifier](#) (page 10)
Returns the receiver's identifier.
- [toolbar](#) (page 21)
Returns the toolbar that is using the receiver.
- [label](#) (page 11)
Returns the receiver's label.
- [setLabel:](#) (page 15)
Sets the receiver's label that appears in the toolbar.
- [paletteLabel](#) (page 12)
Returns the label that appears when the receiver is in the customization palette.
- [setPaletteLabel:](#) (page 17)
Sets the receiver's label that appears when it is in the customization palette.
- [toolTip](#) (page 21)
Returns the tooltip used when the receiver is displayed in the toolbar.
- [setToolTip:](#) (page 19)
Sets the tooltip to be used when the receiver is displayed in the toolbar.
- [menuFormRepresentation](#) (page 12)
Returns the receiver's menu form representation.
- [setMenuFormRepresentation:](#) (page 16)
Sets the receiver's menu form.
- [tag](#) (page 20)
Returns the receiver's tag.
- [setTag:](#) (page 18)
Sets the receiver's tag.
- [target](#) (page 21)
Returns the receiver's target.
- [setTarget:](#) (page 18)
Sets the receiver's target.
- [action](#) (page 8)
Returns the receiver's action.
- [setAction:](#) (page 13)
Sets the receiver's action.

- [isEnabled](#) (page 10)
Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is enabled.
- [setEnabled:](#) (page 14)
Sets the receiver's enabled flag.
- [image](#) (page 9)
Returns the image of the receiver.
- [setImage:](#) (page 14)
Sets the image for the receiver or of the view.
- [view](#) (page 22)
Returns the receiver's view.
- [setView:](#) (page 19)
Use this method to make the receiver into a view item.
- [minSize](#) (page 12)
Returns the receiver's minimum size.
- [setMinSize:](#) (page 17)
Sets the receiver's minimum size to a given size.
- [maxSize](#) (page 11)
Returns the receiver's maximum size.
- [setMaxSize:](#) (page 16)
Sets the receiver's maximum size to a given size.

Visibility Priority

- [visibilityPriority](#) (page 23)
Returns the receiver's visibility priority.
- [setVisibilityPriority:](#) (page 20)
Sets the receiver's visibility priority.

Validation

- [validate](#) (page 22)
This method is called by the receiver's toolbar during validation.
- [autovalidates](#) (page 8)
Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is automatically validated by the toolbar.
- [setAutovalidates:](#) (page 14)
Sets the receiver's auto validation flag.

Controlling Duplicates

- [allowsDuplicatesInToolbar](#) (page 8)
Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver can be represented in the toolbar at more than one position.

Instance Methods

action

Returns the receiver's action.

- (SEL)action

Return Value

The receiver's action.

Discussion

For custom view items, this method sends `action` to the view if it responds and returns the result.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setAction:](#) (page 13)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

allowsDuplicatesInToolbar

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver can be represented in the toolbar at more than one position.

- (BOOL)allowsDuplicatesInToolbar

Return Value

YES to allow dragging the receiver into the toolbar at more than one position, otherwise NO.

Discussion

You use this method by overriding it in a subclass to always return YES; typically, you wouldn't call it. By default, if an item with the same identifier is already in the toolbar, dragging it in again will effectively move it to the new position.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

autovalidates

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is automatically validated by the toolbar.

- (BOOL)autovalidates

Return Value

YES if the receiver is automatically validated by the toolbar, otherwise NO.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also

- [setAutovalidates:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

image

Returns the image of the receiver.

- (NSImage *)image

Return Value

The image of the receiver.

Discussion

For an image item this method returns the result of the most recent [setImage:](#) (page 14). For view items, this method calls `image` on the view if it responds and returns the result.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setImage:](#) (page 14)

Related Sample Code

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

initWithItemIdentifier:

Initialize the receiver with a given identifier.

- (id)initWithItemIdentifier:(NSString *)itemIdentifier

Parameters

itemIdentifier

The identifier for the receiver. *itemIdentifier* is never seen by users and should not be localized.

Discussion

The identifier is used by the toolbar and its delegate to identify the kind of the toolbar item.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn
GridCalendar
iSpend
Quartz Composer QCTV
ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

isEnabled

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is enabled.

- (BOOL)isEnabled

Return Value

YES if the receiver is enabled, otherwise NO.

Discussion

For a view item, this method calls `isEnabled` on the view if it responds and returns the result.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setEnabled:](#) (page 14)
- [view](#) (page 22)

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

itemIdentifier

Returns the receiver's identifier.

- (NSString *)itemIdentifier

Return Value

The receiver's identifier, which was provided in the initializer.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [initWithItemIdentifier:](#) (page 9)

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

label

Returns the receiver's label.

- (NSString *)label

Return Value

The receiver's label, which normally appears in the toolbar and in the overflow menu.

Discussion

For a discussion on labels, see "Setting a Toolbar Item's Representation".

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setLabel:](#) (page 15)
- [menuFormRepresentation](#) (page 12)

Related Sample Code

PDFKitLinker2

Quartz Composer QCTV

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

maxSize

Returns the receiver's maximum size.

- (NSSize)maxSize

Return Value

The receiver's maximum size.

Discussion

See "Setting a Toolbar Item's Size" for a discussion on item sizes.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setMaxSize:](#) (page 16)

Related Sample Code

Quartz Composer QCTV

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

menuFormRepresentation

Returns the receiver's menu form representation.

- (NSMenuItem *)menuFormRepresentation

Return Value

The receiver's menu form representation.

Discussion

By default, this method returns `nil`, even though there is a default menu form representation.

For a discussion on menu forms, see “Setting a Toolbar Item's Representation”.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setMenuFormRepresentation:](#) (page 16)

Related Sample Code

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

minSize

Returns the receiver's minimum size.

- (NSSize)minSize

Return Value

The receiver's minimum size.

Discussion

See “Setting a Toolbar Item's Size” for a discussion on item sizes.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setMinSize:](#) (page 17)

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

paletteLabel

Returns the label that appears when the receiver is in the customization palette.

- (NSString *)paletteLabel

Return Value

The label that appears when the receiver is in the customization palette.

Discussion

An item must have a palette label if the customization palette is to be used, and for most items it is reasonable to set `paletteLabel` to be the same value as `label` (page 11). One reason for `paletteLabel` to be different from `label` (page 11) would be if it's more descriptive; another might be if there is no `label` (page 11).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setPaletteLabel:](#) (page 17)

Related Sample Code

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setAction:

Sets the receiver's action.

```
- (void)setAction:(SEL)action
```

Parameters

action

The action for the receiver.

Discussion

For a custom view item, this method calls `setAction:` on the view if it responds.

See *Action Messages* for additional information on action messages.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [action](#) (page 8)

- [setTarget:](#) (page 18)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn

GridCalendar

iSpend

PDFKitLinker2

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setAutovalidates:

Sets the receiver's auto validation flag.

- (void)setAutovalidates:(BOOL)*resistance*

Parameters

resistance

YES to set the receiver to be automatically validated by the toolbar, otherwise NO.

Discussion

By default `NSToolbar` automatically invokes the receiver's `validate` method on a regular basis. If your `validate` method is time consuming, you can disable auto validation on a per toolbar item basis.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also

- [autovalidates](#) (page 8)

Declared In

`NSToolBarItem.h`

setEnabled:

Sets the receiver's enabled flag.

- (void)setEnabled:(BOOL)*enabled*

Parameters

enabled

YES to enable the receiver, otherwise NO.

Discussion

For a custom view item, this method calls `setEnabled:` on the view if it responds.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isEnabled](#) (page 10)

Declared In

`NSToolBarItem.h`

setImage:

Sets the image for the receiver or of the view.

- (void)setImage:(NSImage *)*image*

Parameters

image

The image for the receiver, or of the view if it has already been set for the receiver.

Discussion

For a custom view item (one whose view has already been set), this method calls `setImage:` on the view if it responds. If *image* contains multiple representations, `NSToolBarItem` chooses the most appropriately sized representation when displaying.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [image](#) (page 9)
- [view](#) (page 22)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn
 GridCalendar
 iSpend
 PDFKitLinker2
 ToolbarSample

Declared In

`NSToolBarItem.h`

setLabel:

Sets the receiver's label that appears in the toolbar.

```
- (void)setLabel:(NSString *)label
```

Parameters

label

The receiver's label that appears in the toolbar. The length of the label should be appropriate and not too long. The label may be empty.

Discussion

The implication is that the toolbar will draw the label for the receiver, and a redraw is triggered by this method. The toolbar is in charge of the label area. For a discussion on labels, see "Setting a Toolbar Item's Representation".

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [label](#) (page 11)
- [paletteLabel](#) (page 12)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn
 GridCalendar
 iSpend
 PDFKitLinker2
 ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setMaxSize:

Sets the receiver's maximum size to a given size.

- (void)setMaxSize:(NSSize)*size*

Parameters

size

The maximum size for the receiver.

Discussion

See “Setting a Toolbar Item's Size” for a discussion on item sizes.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [maxSize](#) (page 11)

Related Sample Code

iSpend

PDFKitLinker2

Quartz Composer QCTV

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setMenuFormRepresentation:

Sets the receiver's menu form.

- (void)setMenuFormRepresentation:(NSMenuItem *)*menuItem*

Parameters

menuItem

The menu form for the receiver.

Discussion

For a discussion on menu forms see “Setting a Toolbar Item's Representation”.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [menuFormRepresentation](#) (page 12)

Related Sample Code

PDFKitLinker2

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setSize:

Sets the receiver's minimum size to a given size.

- (void)setMinSize:(NSSize) *size***Parameters***size*

The minimum size for the receiver.

Discussion

See “Setting a Toolbar Item's Size” for a discussion on item sizes.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also- [minSize](#) (page 12)**Related Sample Code**

iSpend

PDFKitLinker2

Quartz Composer QCTV

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setPaletteLabel:

Sets the receiver's label that appears when it is in the customization palette.

- (void)setPaletteLabel:(NSString *) *paletteLabel***Parameters***paletteLabel*

The label that appears when the receiver is in the customization palette.

Discussion

An item must have a palette label if the customization palette is to be used, and for most items it is reasonable to set [paletteLabel](#) (page 12) to be the same value as [label](#) (page 11). One reason for [paletteLabel](#) (page 12) to be different from [label](#) (page 11) would be if it's more descriptive; another might be if there is no [label](#) (page 11).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also- [paletteLabel](#) (page 12)- [setLabel:](#) (page 15)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn

GridCalendar

iSpend

PDFKitLinker2

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

setTag:

Sets the receiver's tag.

- (void)setTag:(NSInteger)tag

Parameters*tag*

The tag for the receiver.

Discussion

You can use the tag for your own custom purpose.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also- [tag](#) (page 20)**Declared In**

NSToolbarItem.h

setTarget:

Sets the receiver's target.

- (void)setTarget:(id)target

Parameters*target*

The target for the receiver.

DiscussionIf *target* is nil, the toolbar will call `action` on the first responder that implements it (see About the Responder Chain).**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also- [target](#) (page 21)- [setAction:](#) (page 13)- `validateToolbarItem:` (NSToolbarValidation)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn
iSpend
PDFKitLinker2
ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setToolTip:

Sets the tooltip to be used when the receiver is displayed in the toolbar.

```
- (void)setToolTip:(NSString *)tooltip
```

Parameters

tooltip

A string representing the tooltip to be used when the receiver is displayed in the toolbar.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [tooltip](#) (page 21)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn
GridCalendar
iSpend
PDFKitLinker2
ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

setView:

Use this method to make the receiver into a view item.

```
- (void)setView:(NSView *)view
```

Parameters

view

The view for the receiver. The view and all of its contents must conform to the `NSCoding` protocol if the toolbar supports customization.

Discussion

Note that many of the set/get methods are implemented by calls forwarded to *view*, if it responds to it.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [view](#) (page 22)
- [setMaxSize:](#) (page 16)
- [setMinSize:](#) (page 17)

Related Sample Code

iSpend
 PDFKitLinker2
 Quartz Composer QCTV
 ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

setVisibilityPriority:

Sets the receiver's visibility priority.

```
- (void)setVisibilityPriority:(NSInteger)visibilityPriority
```

Parameters

visibilityPriority

The visibility priority for the receiver. The values for *visibilityPriority* are described in [Item Priority](#) (page 24).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also

- [visibilityPriority](#) (page 23)

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

tag

Returns the receiver's tag.

```
- (NSInteger)tag
```

Return Value

The receiver's tag.

Discussion

You can use the tag for your own custom purpose.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setTag:](#) (page 18)

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

target

Returns the receiver's target.

- (id)target

Return Value

The receiver's target.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setTarget:](#) (page 18)

Related Sample Code

EnhancedDataBurn

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

toolbar

Returns the toolbar that is using the receiver.

- (NSToolbar *)toolbar

Return Value

The toolbar that is using the receiver.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

toolTip

Returns the tooltip used when the receiver is displayed in the toolbar.

- (NSString *)toolTip

Return Value

The tooltip used when the receiver is displayed in the toolbar.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setToolTip:](#) (page 19)

Related Sample Code

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

validate

This method is called by the receiver's toolbar during validation.

```
- (void)validate
```

Discussion

You may invoke this method directly if you have disabled automatic validation for an item—typically you do this for performance reasons if your validation code is slow. For further discussion, see “Validating Toolbar Items”.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setEnabled:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

view

Returns the receiver's view.

```
- (NSView *)view
```

Return Value

The receiver's view.

Discussion

Note that many of the set/get methods are implemented by calls forwarded to the `NSView` object referenced by this attribute, if the object responds to it.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setView:](#) (page 19)

Related Sample Code

PDFKitLinker2

Quartz Composer QCTV

ToolbarSample

Declared In

NSToolbarItem.h

visibilityPriority

Returns the receiver's visibility priority.

- (NSInteger)visibilityPriority

Return ValueThe receiver's visibility priority. Possible values are described in [Item Priority](#) (page 24).**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also- [setVisibilityPriority:](#) (page 20)**Declared In**

NSToolbarItem.h

Constants

Standard Identifiers

NSToolbarItem defines the following standard toolbar item identifiers.

```

NSString *NSToolbarSeparatorItemIdentifier;
NSString *NSToolbarSpaceItemIdentifier;
NSString *NSToolbarFlexibleSpaceItemIdentifier;
NSString *NSToolbarShowColorsItemIdentifier;
NSString *NSToolbarShowFontsItemIdentifier;
NSString *NSToolbarCustomizeToolbarItemIdentifier;
NSString *NSToolbarPrintItemIdentifier;

```

Constants

NSToolbarSeparatorItemIdentifier

The Separator item.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in NSToolbarItem.h.

NSToolbarSpaceItemIdentifier

The Space item.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in NSToolbarItem.h.

NSToolbarFlexibleSpaceItemIdentifier

The Flexible Space item.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in NSToolbarItem.h.

`NSToolbarShowColorsItemIdentifier`

The Colors item. Shows the color panel.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

`NSToolbarShowFontsItemIdentifier`

The Fonts item. Shows the font panel.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

`NSToolbarCustomizeToolbarItemIdentifier`

The Customize item. Shows the customization palette.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

`NSToolbarPrintItemIdentifier`

The Print item. Sends `printDocument:` to `firstResponder`, but you can change this in `toolbarWillAddItem:` if you need to do so.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

Discussion

The following figure illustrates the items in the order in which they are described above.



Declared In

`NSToolbarItem.h`

Item Priority

When a toolbar does not have enough space to fit all its items, it must push some items into the overflow menu. These values allow you to suggest a priority for a toolbar item.

```
enum {
    NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityStandard = 0,
    NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityLow    = -1000,
    NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityHigh   = 1000,
    NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityUser   = 2000
};
```

Constants

`NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityStandard`

The default visibility priority.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

`NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityLow`

Items with this priority will be the first items to be pushed to the overflow menu.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

`NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityHigh`

Items with this priority are less inclined to be pushed to the overflow menu.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

`NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityUser`

Items with this priority are the last to be pushed to the overflow menu. Only the user should set items to this priority.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `NSToolbarItem.h`.

Discussion

To suggest that an item always remain visible, give it a value greater than

`NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityStandard`, but less than `NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityUser`.

In configurable toolbars, users can control the priority of an item and the priority is autosaved by the `NSToolbar`.

These values are used by the [setVisibilityPriority:](#) (page 20) and [visibilityPriority](#) (page 23) methods:

Declared In

`NSToolbarItem.h`

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *NSToolbarItem Class Reference*.

Date	Notes
2006-06-28	Clarified the use of the validate method; updated the Constants section to conform to reference consistency guidelines.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

Index

A

action **instance method** [8](#)
allowsDuplicatesInToolbar **instance method** [8](#)
autovalidates **instance method** [8](#)

I

image **instance method** [9](#)
initWithItemIdentifier: **instance method** [9](#)
isEnabled **instance method** [10](#)
Item Priority [24](#)
itemIdentifier **instance method** [10](#)

L

label **instance method** [11](#)

M

maxSize **instance method** [11](#)
menuFormRepresentation **instance method** [12](#)
minSize **instance method** [12](#)

N

NSToolbarCustomizeToolbarItemIdentifier
constant [24](#)
NSToolbarFlexibleSpaceItemIdentifier **constant**
[23](#)
NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityHigh **constant**
[25](#)
NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityLow **constant** [25](#)
NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityStandard
constant [24](#)

NSToolbarItemVisibilityPriorityUser **constant**
[25](#)
NSToolbarPrintItemIdentifier **constant** [24](#)
NSToolbarSeparatorItemIdentifier **constant** [23](#)
NSToolbarShowColorsItemIdentifier **constant** [24](#)
NSToolbarShowFontsItemIdentifier **constant** [24](#)
NSToolbarSpaceItemIdentifier **constant** [23](#)

P

paletteLabel **instance method** [12](#)

S

setAction: **instance method** [13](#)
setAutovalidates: **instance method** [14](#)
setEnabled: **instance method** [14](#)
setImage: **instance method** [14](#)
setLabel: **instance method** [15](#)
setMaxSize: **instance method** [16](#)
setMenuFormRepresentation: **instance method** [16](#)
setMinSize: **instance method** [17](#)
setPaletteLabel: **instance method** [17](#)
setTag: **instance method** [18](#)
setTarget: **instance method** [18](#)
setToolTip: **instance method** [19](#)
setView: **instance method** [19](#)
setVisibilityPriority: **instance method** [20](#)
Standard Identifiers [23](#)

T

tag **instance method** [20](#)
target **instance method** [21](#)
toolbar **instance method** [21](#)
toolTip **instance method** [21](#)

V

validate **instance method** [22](#)

view **instance method** [22](#)

visibilityPriority **instance method** [23](#)