

# Overview of GNU nano 8.1 keyboard shortcuts

^ = Control/Ctrl Key    M = Option/Alt Key    Sh = Shift Key    Fn = Function Key n    DEL = Delete Key    BS = Backspace Key    SP = Space Bar    TAB = Tab Key

## File Handling

<b>^+O</b>	<b>F3</b>	Offer to write file ("Save As")
<b>^+R</b>	<b>F5</b>	Insert a file into current one
<b>^+S</b>		Save current file
<b>^+X</b>	<b>F2</b>	Close edit-buffer or Exit from GNU nano

## Editing

<b>^+]</b>		Complete current word
<b>^+I</b>		Insert tab
<b>^+K</b>	<b>F9</b>	Cut current selection into cut-buffer
<b>^+M</b>		Insert newline
<b>^+U</b>	<b>F10</b>	Paste contents of cut-buffer
<b>M+{</b>		Unindent current line
<b>M+}</b>		Indent current line
<b>M+^1</b>	<b>M+6</b>	Copy current selection into cut-buffer
<b>M+3</b>		Comment/uncomment line/region
<b>M+E</b>		Redo last undo action
<b>M+T</b>		Cut until end of edit-buffer
<b>M+U</b>		Undo last action
<b>M+V</b>		Enter next keystroke verbatim

## Search and Replace

<b>^+Q</b>		Start backward search
<b>^+W</b>	<b>F6</b>	Start forward search
<b>M+Q</b>		Find next occurrence backward
<b>M+R</b>	<b>^+\</b>	Start a replacing session
<b>M+W</b>		Find next occurrence forward

## Deletion

<b>^+D</b>		Delete character under cursor
<b>^+DEL<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Sh+M+R<sup>3</sup></b>	Delete word to the right
<b>^+H</b>		Delete character before cursor
<b>M+BS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Sh+M+L<sup>3</sup></b>	Delete word to the left
<b>M+DEL<sup>4</sup></b>		Delete current line ( <i>Delete word to the left</i> )

## Operations

<b>^+J</b>	<b>F4</b>	Justify paragraph or region
<b>^+T</b>	<b>F12</b>	Execute some command or spell checker
<b>M+;</b>		Replace recorded macro
<b>M+:</b>		Start/stop recording of macro
<b>M+B<sup>5</sup></b>		Run a syntax check
<b>M+F<sup>5</sup></b>		Run a formatter/fixer/arranger
<b>M+J</b>		Justify entire edit-buffer/region

## Information

<b>^+C</b>	<b>F11</b>	Cancel or report cursor position
<b>^+G</b>	<b>F1</b>	Display help text
<b>M+D</b>		Report line/word/character count

## Moving Around

<b>^+A</b>		To start of line
<b>^+B</b>		One character backward
<b>^+←<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>M+SP</b>	One word backward
<b>^+→<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>^+SP</b>	One word forward
<b>^+E</b>		To end of line
<b>^+↓<sup>2</sup></b>		To next block
<b>^+↑<sup>2</sup></b>		To previous block
<b>^+F</b>		One character forward
<b>^+N</b>		One line down
<b>^+P</b>		One line up
<b>^+V</b>	<b>F8</b>	One page down
<b>^+Y</b>	<b>F7</b>	One page up
<b>M+(`</b>	<b>M-9</b>	To beginning of paragraph
<b>M+)</b>	<b>M+0</b>	To end of paragraph
<b>M+/_</b>		To end of buffer
<b>M+\<b></b></b>		To top of buffer

## Special Movement

<b>M+-</b>	<b>M+_</b>	Scroll up 1 line – cursor not moved
<b>M+] ]</b>		Go to matching bracket
<b>M++<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>M+=</b>	Scroll down 1 line – cursor not moved
<b>M+&lt;</b>	<b>M+,</b>	Switch to preceding buffer
<b>M+&gt;</b>	<b>M+.</b>	Switch to succeeding buffer
<b>M+↓<sup>2</sup></b>		Scroll viewport down
<b>M+↑<sup>2</sup></b>		Scroll viewport up
<b>M+G</b>	<b>^+_</b>	Go to specified line and column

## Toggle GNU nano features on or off

<b>M+C</b>		Toggle cursor position notice on/off
<b>M+H</b>		Toggle smart home key on/off
<b>M+I</b>		Toggle auto indent on/off
<b>M+K</b>		Toggle cut to end on/off
<b>M+L</b>		Toggle long line wrapping on/off
<b>M+M<sup>1</sup></b>		Toggle mouse support on/off
<b>M+N</b>		Toggle line numbers on/off
<b>M+O</b>		Toggle convert tabs to spaces on/off
<b>M+P</b>		Toggle visible whitespace on/off
<b>M+S</b>		Toggle smooth scrolling of long lines on/off
<b>M+Y</b>		Toggle color syntax highlighting on/off
<b>M+Z</b>		Toggle extra editor lines on/off

## Miscellaneous

<b>^+L</b>		Refresh the screen
<b>M+A</b>	<b>^+^1</b>	Toggle the mark on/off
<b>M+X</b>		Hide/unhide the help lines
<b>Sh+TAB</b>		Unindent marked region
<b>TAB</b>		Indent marked region

**See next page for additional information**

<sup>1</sup> Last character of sequence is entered literally

<sup>2</sup> Does not work on macOS systems as described

<sup>3</sup> When suggested ~/.nanorc file is used (see next page)

<sup>4</sup> M+DEL operates as delete word to the left

<sup>5</sup> Required application must be defined

# Overview of GNU nano 8.1 keyboard shortcuts

## How to install the latest version of GNU nano

Login as the primary system user, open a terminal window, and enter the commands shown below for Linux, macOS, or Windows. Note that **8.1** represents the latest version of GNU nano. Visit <https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/> and look at the list to determine the most recent version. Please note that many Linux distributions and macOS installations might include an older version of GNU nano.

### Linux

- ❖ sudo apt-file update && sudo apt -y update
- ❖ sudo apt -y upgrade && apt -y remove nano
- ❖ sudo apt -y full-upgrade && sudo apt -y dist-upgrade
- ❖ sudo apt -y autoremove && sudo apt -y autoclean
- ❖ apt -y clean
- ❖ wget https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/nano-8.1.tar.xz
- ❖ tar -xvf nano-8.1.tar.xz
- ❖ cd nano-8.1
- ❖ ./configure --disable-libmagic --enable-utf8
- ❖ sudo make && sudo make install
- ❖ cd ..
- ❖ sudo rm -fr .wget-hsts nano-8.1.tar.xz nano-8.1

### macOS

- ❖ wget https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/nano-8.1.tar.xz
- ❖ tar -xvf nano-8.1.tar.xz
- ❖ cd nano-8.1
- ❖ ./configure --disable-libmagic
- ❖ sudo make && sudo make install
- ❖ cd ..
- ❖ sudo rm -fr .wget-hsts nano-8.1.tar.xz nano-8.1

### Windows

- ❖ Download the latest version of GNU nano for Windows from the list displayed from the website, <https://files.lhmouse.com/nano-win/>.
- ❖ Extract the contents of the downloaded file with 7-Zip into a folder.
- ❖ Copy the extracted file, **bin/nano.exe**, to the desired location, perhaps **C:\Windows\** or even better **C:\Program Files\**.

## View or download GNU nano documentation

The official manual for the latest version of GNU nano is available at <https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/nano.pdf>. The man page for GNU nano is available at <https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/nano.1.html> and the man page for the various nanorc files is available at <https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/nanorc.5.html>.

## Suggested .nanorc file (place this file in each user's home directory)

```
#####  
## ~/.nanorc - GNU nano runtime configuration file  
#####
```

```
set      autoindent  
set      constantshow  
set      cutfromcursor  
set      functioncolor  italic,cyan,black  
set      indicator  
set      keycolor       bold,lightcyan,black  
set      linenumbers  
set      mouse  
set      numbercolor   lightyellow,black  
set      statuscolor   lightwhite,blue  
set      tabsize       4  
set      tabstospaces  
set      titlecolor    lightwhite,red  
unset    breaklonglines
```

```
bind Sh-M-L chopwordleft main  
bind Sh-M-R chopwordright main
```

```
include "/usr/local/share/nano/asm.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/autoconf.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/awk.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/c.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/changelog.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/cmake.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/css.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/default.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/elisp.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/email.nanorc"
```

```
include "/usr/local/share/nano/go.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/groff.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/guile.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/html.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/java.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/javascript.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/json.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/lua.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/makefile.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/man.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/markdown.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/nanohelp.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/nanorc.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/nftables.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/objc.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/ocaml.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/patch.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/perl.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/php.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/po.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/python.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/ruby.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/sh.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/sql.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/tcl.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/texinfo.nanorc"  
include "/usr/local/share/nano/xml.nanorc"
```

```
#####  
## End of ~/.nanorc  
#####
```