aerc Terminal email client

START HERE

- **j** / **k** — Next / previous message
- **d** — Delete (asks first)
- **Enter** — Open the message
- **/** — Search the folder
- **C** — Compose a new message
- **Ctrl** + **n** / **Ctrl** + **p** — Next / previous tab
- **r** › **r** — Reply to all
- **?** — List keys for this view

Message list folders in the sidebar → `Enter` → **Viewer** one tab per message → `r / f / C` → **Composer** editor opens in a tab → `Esc, then y` → **Review** send, attach, postpone

CONCEPTS

Everything is a command. Keys just run commands; press : to type one yourself, with Tab completion.

The composer runs $EDITOR in an embedded terminal tab, so editor keys go to the editor. Ctrl+x there opens the : prompt.

Binds are per view ([messages], [view], [compose]...) in binds.conf. The defaults need no file.

MOVING AROUND

- **j** / **k** — Next / previous message
- **Ctrl** + **d** / **Ctrl** + **u** — Half a page down / up
- **Ctrl** + **f** / **Ctrl** + **b** — Full page down / up
- **g** / **G** — First / last message
- **J** / **K** — Next / previous folder
- **Ctrl** + **n** / **Ctrl** + **p** — Next / previous tab
- **[** › **t** / **]** › **t** — Previous / next tab (vim-style)
- **:cf** *<folder>* — Jump to a folder by name
- **H** / **L** — Collapse / expand folder tree node
- **z** › **z** — Centre the selection
- **.** — Repeat the last command

READING

- **Enter** — Open message in the viewer
- **q** — Close viewer / quit from the list

In the viewer J / K step to the next / previous message. From the list, q asks first.

- **Ctrl** + **Down** / **Ctrl** + **Up** — Next / previous message part
- **H** — Toggle all headers
- **o** — Open part with its handler
- **Ctrl** + **l** — Open a link in the message
- **Ctrl** + **y** — Copy a link

READING (cont.)

- **:toggle-sidebar** — Hide or show the folder list
- **:help keys** — Open the key reference

WRITE AND REPLY

- **C** / **m** — Compose a new message
- **r** › **r** — Reply to all
- **R** › **r** — Reply to sender only
- **r** › **q** — Reply to all, quoting the message
- **R** › **q** — Reply to sender, quoting the message
- **f** — Forward (in the viewer)
- **b** — Bounce to other addresses
- **Ctrl** + **j** / **Ctrl** + **k** — Next / previous header field
- **Ctrl** + **x** — Type a : command from the editor
- **:cc** *<addr>* — Add a Cc recipient
- **:bcc** *<addr>* — Add a Bcc recipient
- **Alt** + **n** / **Alt** + **p** — Next / previous sending account
- **Ctrl** + **o** — Complete an address

REVIEW AND SEND

- **y** — Send the message

Other keys on the review screen

Key	Action
n	Discard, no confirmation
p	Postpone to Drafts
e	Edit body and headers
a / d	Add / remove attachment
v	Preview
s / x	Toggle sign / encrypt

DELETE AND TAG

- **d** — Delete, asking first
- **D** — Delete immediately
- **a** — Archive the message
- **v** — Mark message for a bulk action
- **Space** — Mark and move on

DELETE AND TAG (cont.)

- **V** — Visual mark mode
- **A** — Archive all marked
- **:read / :unread** — Set read state
- **:flag** — Flag a message
- **:move** *<folder>* — Move to a folder
- **:copy** *<folder>* — Copy to a folder
- **:tag +**<*label*> — Add a label or tag
- **:unmark -a** — Clear all marks

THREADS

- **T** — Toggle threaded view
- **z** › **c** / **z** › **o** — Fold / unfold thread
- **z** › **a** — Toggle fold of the thread
- **z** › **M** / **z** › **R** — Fold / unfold all
- **:sort -r date** — Sort newest first
- **:sort from** — Sort by sender

SEARCH AND FILTER

- **/** — Search in the folder
- **n** / **N** — Next / previous result
- **** — Filter the list
- **Esc** — Clear search or filter
- **:filter -u** — Show unread only
- **:filter -f** *<from>* — Messages from a sender
- **:filter -d** *<range>* — By date, e.g. last week
- **:filter -b** *<text>* — Search message bodies
- **:filter -x flagged** — Flagged messages only
- **:search -a** *<text>* — Search whole message text

FOLDERS, SAVING AND PIPES

- **:check-mail** — Fetch new mail now

FOLDERS, SAVING AND PIPES (cont.)

- **S** — Save attachment to a path
- **|** — Pipe message to a command
- **Ctrl** + **t** — Open a terminal tab
- **:attach** *<path>* — Attach a file to the draft

COMMAND LINE

- **aerc** — Start the client
- **aerc mailto:***<addr>* — Open a composer for an address
- **aerc -a** *<account>* — Start on one account
- **:new-account** — Run the account wizard
- **:quit** — Leave aerc

CONFIG FILES

Files live in ~/.config/aerc: aerc.conf (look and behaviour), accounts.conf (credentials, keep private) and binds.conf (keys).

Use source-cred-cmd or outgoing-cred-cmd to read passwords from a password manager instead of writing them in accounts.conf.

RECIPES

Minimal IMAP account

```
# accounts.conf
[Work]
source   = imaps://me@example.com@imap.example.com
outgoing = smtps://me@example.com@smtp.example.com
default  = INBOX
from     = Me <me@example.com>
```

Add vim-style binds

```
# binds.conf
[messages]
gg = :select 0<Enter>
ga = :flag -a<Enter>
[view]
x = :close<Enter>
```

Apply a patch series

```
# mark the patches with v, then:
:pipe -m git am -3
# or: :patch apply <tag>
```

Unread from a person this week

```
:filter -u -f alice -d this week
```