aerc Terminal email client

CONCEPTS

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

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

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

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

`:cf <folder>`
Jump to a folder by name

z › z Centre the selection

READING

Enter
Open message in the viewer

q
Close viewer / quit from the list

Ctrl + Down / Ctrl + Up
Next / previous message part

H Toggle all headers

o Open part with its handler

`:help keys`
Open the key reference

WRITE AND REPLY

C / m
Compose a new message

WRITE AND REPLY (cont.)

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)

Ctrl + j / Ctrl + k
Next / previous header field

Ctrl + x
Type a : command from the editor

`:cc <addr>`
Add a Cc recipient

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

V Visual mark mode

`:read / :unread`
Set read state

`:flag`
Flag a message

`:move <folder>`
Move to a folder

`:copy <folder>`
Copy to a folder

THREADS

T Toggle threaded view

z › c / z › o
Fold / unfold thread

z › a Toggle fold of the thread

`:sort -r date`
Sort newest first

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

FOLDERS, SAVING AND PIPES

`:check-mail`
Fetch new mail now

S Save attachment to a path

| Pipe message to a command

`: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).