Alacritty GPU terminal emulator

START HERE

Ctrl + **Shift** + **C**
Copy selection

Ctrl + **Shift** + **F**
Search scrollback

Ctrl + **Shift** + **V**
Paste clipboard

Ctrl + **=** / **Ctrl** + **-**
Font size up / down

Shift + **PageUp**
Scroll back

Ctrl + **Shift** + **O**
Open a link by hint

Ctrl + **Shift** + **Space**
Vi mode: keyboard selection

Shift + **Insert**
Paste selection

Normal keys reach the shell — `Ctrl+Shift+Space` → **Vi mode** move cursor, select, copy — `/` or `?` → **Search** type a pattern, Enter to jump

Where keys go

CONCEPTS

Alacritty has no tabs or splits by design: pair it with tmux or zellij for sessions and panes.

Every binding here is a default and can be rebound in the [keyboard] bindings of alacritty.toml. The file is read from $XDG_CONFIG_HOME/alacritty/alacritty.toml and live-reloads on save.

macOS uses Cmd instead of Ctrl+Shift for copy, paste, search and font size (Cmd+C, Cmd+V, Cmd+F, Cmd+=), and adds Cmd+N / Cmd+T for windows and tabs.

COPY AND PASTE

Ctrl + **Shift** + **C**
Copy selection
Anything you select with the mouse is also copied to the primary selection.

Ctrl + **Shift** + **V**
Paste from clipboard

Shift + **Insert**
Paste primary selection
Pastes whatever was selected last, no copy step needed.

Middle › **click**
Paste primary selection
Not active in vi mode.

Right › **click**
Extend selection to pointer

Ctrl + **Right** › **click**
Extend selection to pointer

SCROLLING

Shift + **PageUp** / **Shift** + **PageDown**
Scroll one page

Shift + **Home** / **Shift** + **End**
Jump to top / bottom

Ctrl + **L**
Clear screen and log notice
Sends form feed to the shell, so your prompt redraws.

Alt + **PageUp**
Pass PageUp to the app
With Alt held the scroll bindings step aside, so full-screen programs get the key.

SEARCH

Ctrl + **Shift** + **F**
Search forward

Ctrl + **Shift** + **B**
Search backward

Enter
Confirm / jump to next match
Confirming returns to the terminal with the cursor at the match; vi mode stays available.

Esc / **Ctrl** + **C** Cancel search

Ctrl + **U** / **Ctrl** + **W**
Clear line / delete word

Ctrl + **P** / **Ctrl** + **N**
Previous / next search history

Arrow › **Up** / **Arrow** › **Down**
Browse search history

VI MODE

Ctrl + **Shift** + **Space**
Toggle vi mode
Moves a block cursor through scrollback with the keyboard.

i / **Ctrl** + **C** Leave vi mode

h › **j** › **k** › **l** Move cursor

v Start character selection

Shift + **V** Select whole lines

y Copy selection and clear it

Ctrl + **V** Block selection

Alt + **V**
Semantic (word) selection

g / **Shift** + **G**
Jump to top / bottom

Ctrl + **U** / **Ctrl** + **D**
Half page up / down

Ctrl + **B** / **Ctrl** + **F**
Page up / down

Ctrl + **Y** / **Ctrl** + **E**
Scroll one line up / down

w / **b** / **e**
Next / previous / end of word
Lowercase stops at separators; Shift+W / B / E move by whitespace-separated words.

0 / **Shift** + **4** / **Shift** + **6**
Line start / end / first non-blank
That is 0, $ and ^ as typed with Shift.

Shift + **H** / **Shift** + **M** / **Shift** + **L**
Top / middle / bottom of screen

VI MODE (cont.)

Shift + **5**
Jump to matching bracket
The % key.

Shift + **[** / **Shift** + **]**
Previous / next paragraph
The { and } keys.

f / **t**
Jump to / before a character
Shift+F and Shift+T search backward; ; and , repeat.

; / **,**
Repeat jump forward / back

Shift + **8** / **Shift** + **3**
Search word under cursor fwd / back
*The * and # keys.*

/ / **?**
Search forward / backward

n / **Shift** + **N**
Next / previous match

z Center view on cursor

Shift + **Y** Yank to end of line

FONT AND WINDOW

Ctrl + **=** Increase font size
Ctrl+Plus and the numpad plus work too.

Ctrl + **-** Decrease font size

Ctrl + **0** Reset font size

Alt + **Enter**
Toggle fullscreen (Windows)
No default fullscreen key on Linux or BSD; bind ToggleFullscreen yourself.

Ctrl + **Shift** + **O**
Open link by hint
Labels every URL on screen; type its letters to open it with xdg-open. Clicking a link also opens it.

No default key on Linux

Action	Bind it as
`New window`	SpawnNewInstance
`Fullscreen`	ToggleFullscreen
`Clear history`	ClearHistory
`Quit`	Quit

COMMAND LINE

`alacritty -e <cmd>`
Run a command instead of the shell
Must be the last argument.

COMMAND LINE (cont.)

`alacritty --working-directory <dir>`
Start shell in a directory

`alacritty -T <title>`
Set the window title

`alacritty --class <name>`
Set window class / app_id
Handy for window-manager rules.

`alacritty -o <key>=<value>`
Override a config option
For example -o 'font.size=14'.

`alacritty --config-file <file>`
Use another config file

`alacritty --hold -e <cmd>`
Keep window open after exit

`alacritty msg create-window`
Open window in running instance
Reuses the running process, so it starts faster.

`alacritty msg config <key>=<value>`
Change config at runtime
-r resets; -w <id> targets a window.

`alacritty migrate`
Convert old YAML config to TOML

`alacritty --daemon`
Run with no initial window

RECIPES

Bind new window and fullscreen (alacritty.toml)

```
[keyboard]
bindings = [
  { key = "N", mods = "Control|Shift", action = "SpawnNewInstance" },
  { key = "F11", action = "ToggleFullscreen" },
]
```

Run a command and stay open

```
alacritty --hold -e htop
alacritty --working-directory ~/src -e tmux new -As dev
```

Fast windows through the daemon

```
alacritty --daemon
alacritty msg create-window -e bash
```

Copy from scrollback by keyboard

```
# Ctrl+Shift+Space  enter vi mode
# ?error  Enter     search upwards
# v  move  y        select and copy
# i                 back to shell
```