Alacritty GPU terminal emulator

START HERE

Ctrl + Shift + C
Copy selection

Ctrl + Shift + V
Paste clipboard

Shift + PageUp
Scroll back

Ctrl + Shift + Space
Vi mode: keyboard selection

Ctrl + Shift + F
Search scrollback

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

Ctrl + Shift + O
Open a link by hint

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
```