fzf Fuzzy finder

START HERE

<*cmd*> | fzf
Pick a line from any list

Alt+C
cd into chosen directory

fzf
Browse files here

fzf -m
Select several with Tab

Ctrl+T
Paste chosen file path

fzf --preview '<*cmd*> {}'
Preview the focused line

Ctrl+R
Fuzzy search history

vim **<*Tab*>
Fuzzy path completion

CONCEPTS

fzf reads lines on stdin, shows a filterable list and prints the chosen line(s) on stdout. It is a filter, so anything that makes lines can feed it.

Source stdin, find, or walker
↓ lines
fzf type to filter, move, mark
↓ selection
stdout chosen line(s)
↓ consumed by
Command vim, cd, kill, git ...
How fzf fits in a pipeline

Run eval "$(fzf --bash)" in ~/.bashrc (or source <(fzf --zsh)) to get Ctrl+T, Ctrl+R, Alt+C and ** completion.

RUNNING FZF

<*cmd*> | fzf
Choose one line from the input

fzf
Browse files under the current dir

fzf -m
Multi-select (Tab marks, Shift+Tab unmarks)

fzf -q '<*query*>'
Start with a query typed in

fzf -1 -0
Auto-pick a single match, exit on none

fzf --height 40%
Inline list instead of full screen

fzf --layout reverse
Prompt at the top, list grows down

fzf --border
Draw a border around the finder

fzf --ansi
Keep colours from the input

fzf --print0
Separate output by NUL (pair with xargs -0)

fzf --disabled
Turn off filtering; list is driven by reload

fzf --tmux 80%
Open in a tmux popup
Needs tmux 3.3+; silently ignored elsewhere

KEYS INSIDE THE FINDER

Ctrl+J / Ctrl+N / Down
Move down

Ctrl+K / Ctrl+P / Up
Move up

Enter
Accept the focused item

KEYS INSIDE THE FINDER (cont.)

Esc / Ctrl+C / Ctrl+G
Quit without selecting

Tab / Shift+Tab
Mark or unmark item (with -m)

Ctrl+A / Ctrl+E
Cursor to start or end of query

Ctrl+W / Ctrl+U
Delete word or whole query

PgUp / PgDn
Page through the list

Shift+Up / Shift+Down
Scroll the preview

SEARCH SYNTAX

Tokens (space = AND)

Token	Matches
`sbtrkt`	fuzzy
`'wild`	exact substring
`'wild'`	exact, word boundaries
`^music`	prefix
`.mp3$`	suffix
`!fire`	does not contain
`!^music`	does not start with
`a | b`	a OR b

fzf -e
Exact matching by default (' makes a term fuzzy)

fzf -i / +i
Force case-insensitive or case-sensitive

fzf --scheme=path
Rank for file paths

Terms are ANDed, so 'core go$ | rb$' narrows quickly.

SHELL INTEGRATION

eval "$(fzf --bash)"
Enable bindings and completion in bash

source <(fzf --zsh)
Enable in zsh

fzf --fish | source
Enable in fish

Ctrl+T
Paste selected files or dirs at the cursor

Ctrl+R
Fuzzy search command history

Alt+C
cd into a selected directory

Ctrl+R (again)
Toggle relevance and chronological sort

<*cmd*> **<*Tab*>
Fuzzy completion of paths, e.g. vim **<Tab>

kill -9 **<*Tab*>
Pick a process to kill

ssh **<*Tab*>
Pick a host from config and hosts files

PREVIEW AND LAYOUT

fzf --preview 'cat {}'
Show a preview of the focused line

fzf --preview-window right,50%
Position and size the preview

--preview-window up,40%,border-bottom
Put the preview above the list

--preview-window hidden
Start hidden (toggle with a bind)

--preview-window '~3'
Pin the first 3 preview lines as a header

fzf --header '<*text*>'
Add a fixed header line

fzf --header-lines 1
Treat input's first line as header

fzf --prompt '<*text*> '
Change the prompt string

{} in a preview or bind is the focused line in single quotes; {+} is every marked line, {q} is the query.

FIELDS AND OUTPUT

--delimiter ':'
Split each line into fields

--nth 2
Search only field 2

--with-nth 2..
Show only fields from 2 onwards

--accept-nth 1
Print only field 1 of the selection

{1} {2} {-1}
Field placeholders in preview or bind commands

--walker file,dir,follow,hidden
Choose what the built-in walker lists

--walker-skip .git,node_modules
Skip directories while walking

BINDINGS AND ACTIONS

--bind 'ctrl-/:toggle-preview'
Bind a key to a preview toggle

--bind 'enter:become(vim {})'
Replace fzf with a command on Enter

--bind 'ctrl-y:execute-silent(<*cmd*>)+abort'
Run a command silently, then quit

BINDINGS AND ACTIONS (cont.)

--bind 'ctrl-o:execute(<*cmd*> {})'
Run a command, then return to fzf

--bind 'ctrl-r:reload(<*cmd*>)'
Replace the list with new output

--bind 'change:reload(<*cmd*> {q})'
Re-run a command on each keystroke

--bind 'start:<*action*>'
Event bindings: start, change, focus, result

CONFIGURATION

FZF_DEFAULT_OPTS
Options applied to every run

FZF_DEFAULT_OPTS_FILE
Read default options from a file (~/.fzfrc)

FZF_DEFAULT_COMMAND
Where fzf gets candidates with no stdin

FZF_CTRL_T_COMMAND
Override the Ctrl+T source

FZF_CTRL_T_OPTS
Extra options for Ctrl+T (e.g. preview)

FZF_CTRL_R_OPTS
Extra options for Ctrl+R

Do not put --preview in FZF_DEFAULT_OPTS: it also applies to history, ps and other non-file inputs. Use FZF_CTRL_T_OPTS instead.

RECIPES

Open a file with a preview

```
vim $(fzf --preview 'head -n 50 {}')
# or, safer with spaces
fzf --preview 'head -n 50 {}' --bind 'enter:become(vim {})'
```

Checkout a git branch

```
# local branches (names with spaces or * break a plain pipe)
git switch "$(git branch --format='%(refname:short)' | fzf)"
# include remotes
git switch "$(git branch --all --format='%(refname:short)' | fzf)"
```

Kill processes by picking

```
ps -ef | fzf -m --header-lines=1 | awk '{print $2}' | xargs kill
```

Live ripgrep launcher

```
rg --line-number --color=always '' |
  fzf --ansi --delimiter : \
      --bind 'change:reload(rg --line-number --color=always {q} || true)' \
      --disabled --bind 'enter:become(vim {1} +{2})'
```