nano Simple terminal editor

START HERE

- **Ctrl** + **O** Save (write out)
- **Alt** + **G** Go to line
- **Ctrl** + **X** Exit
- **Ctrl** + **G** Help
- **Ctrl** + **K** Cut line
- **Ctrl** + **U** Paste
- **Ctrl** + **F** Search forward
- **Alt** + **R** Replace

CONCEPTS

^ in the bottom bar means Ctrl, M- means Alt. The bar always lists the keys valid right now.

nano file open
↓ Ctrl+O
Edit type, cut, paste
↓ Ctrl+O
Save confirm name
↓ Ctrl+X
Exit
Editing session

Alt means Esc then the key on terminals without Alt. Alt+key is written M-key in the help.

nano --modernbindings (-/) switches to Ctrl+C/V/X, Ctrl+Z/Y, Ctrl+S, Ctrl+Q instead of the keys on this sheet.

FILES AND BUFFERS

- **Ctrl** + **O** Write out (save as)
- **Ctrl** + **S** Save current file
- **Ctrl** + **X** Close buffer, exit nano
- **Ctrl** + **R** Insert another file at cursor
- **Alt** + **Left** Switch to previous buffer
- **Alt** + **Right** Switch to next buffer
- **Ctrl** + **G** Show help

FILES AND BUFFERS (cont.)

nano +*<line>*,*<col> <file>*
Open at line and column

nano -
Read from standard input

nano -v *<file>*
Open read-only (view mode)

CUT, COPY, PASTE

- **Ctrl** + **K** Cut current line
- **Alt** + **6** Copy current line
- **Ctrl** + **U** Paste the cut buffer
- **Alt** + **A** Set or unset the mark (select)
- **Alt** + **T** Cut from cursor to end of buffer
- **Alt** + **Del** Delete current line
- **Ctrl** + **D** Delete character under cursor
- **Ctrl** + **H** Delete character before cursor
- **Alt** + **Bsp** Delete word to the left
- **Ctrl** + **Del** Delete word to the right

Press Alt+A, move the cursor, then Ctrl+K or Alt+6 to cut or copy that region.

UNDO AND EDITING

- **Alt** + **U** Undo
- **Alt** + **E** Redo
- **Alt** + **3** Comment or uncomment line or region
- **Tab** Indent marked region
- **Shift** + **Tab** Unindent marked region
- **Ctrl** + **]** Complete current word
- **Alt** + **V** Insert next keystroke verbatim
- **Alt** + **:** Start or stop macro recording
- **Alt** + **;** Replay the macro

SEARCH AND REPLACE

- **Ctrl** + **F** Search forward
- **Ctrl** + **B** Search backward
- **Alt** + **F** Repeat search forward
- **Alt** + **B** Repeat search backward
- **Alt** + **R** Start search and replace
- **Alt** + **]** Jump to matching bracket

SEARCH AND REPLACE (cont.)

In the search prompt, Alt+C toggles case, Alt+R regex, Alt+B backwards. In replace, A replaces all.

NAVIGATION

- **Ctrl** + **A** Start of line
- **Ctrl** + **E** End of line
- **Alt** + **G** Go to line number
- **Ctrl** + **Y** Page up
- **Ctrl** + **V** Page down
- **Ctrl** + **Left** / **Ctrl** + **Right** Word back / forward
- **Ctrl** + **Up** / **Ctrl** + **Down** Previous / next block
- **Alt** + **** Top of buffer
- **Alt** + **/** End of buffer
- **Ctrl** + **L** Center the current line
- **Alt** + **Up** / **Alt** + **Down** Scroll view without moving cursor
- **Ctrl** + **C** Show cursor position

FORMAT AND TOOLS

- **Ctrl** + **J** Justify paragraph or region
- **Alt** + **J** Justify the whole buffer

FORMAT AND TOOLS (cont.)

- **Ctrl** + **T** Execute a command
- **Ctrl** + **T** › **Ctrl** + **S** Spell check
- **Ctrl** + **T** › **Ctrl** + **Y** Linter (syntax check)
- **Ctrl** + **T** › **Ctrl** + **O** Run formatter
- **Alt** + **D** Count lines, words, characters

VIEW TOGGLES

- **Alt** + **N** Toggle line numbers
- **Alt** + **S** Toggle soft wrapping
- **Alt** + **P** Show whitespace
- **Alt** + **X** Hide or show help lines
- **Alt** + **C** Constant cursor position display

OPTIONS AND NANORC

nano -l *<file>*
Show line numbers

nano -m *<file>*
Enable mouse

nano -i *<file>*
Auto-indent new lines

nano -E -T *<n>* *<file>*
Tabs to spaces, tab width n

nano -B *<file>*
Back up existing file on save

OPTIONS AND NANORC (cont.)

nano -Y *<name>* *<file>*
Force a syntax for colouring

nano -/ *<file>*
Use modern Ctrl+C/V/X/Z bindings

Config files

File	Used for
`~/.nanorc`	Per-user settings
`~/.config/nano/nanorc`	Per-user, XDG location
`/etc/nanorc`	System-wide defaults

RECIPES

Comfortable ~/.nanorc

```
set linenumbers
set mouse
set tabsize 4
set tabstospaces
set autoindent
set softwrap
include "/usr/share/nano/
*.nanorc"
```

Edit a file at a given line

```
nano +42 app.py
nano +42,10 app.py
# Alt+G jumps once inside
```

Replace in whole file

```
# Alt+R, type the search text,
Enter
# type the replacement, Enter
# A replaces all, Y/N step
through
```

Edit root files safely

```
sudoedit /etc/hosts
# or: sudo -e /etc/hosts
EDITOR=nano sudoedit /etc/hosts
```