nano Simple terminal editor

CONCEPTS

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

nano file open
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

FILES AND BUFFERS (cont.)

Alt + Right
Switch to next buffer

Ctrl + G Show help

`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 + Del
Delete current line

Ctrl + D
Delete character under cursor

Alt + Bsp
Delete word to the left

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

Alt + :
Start or stop macro recording

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

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 + C
Show cursor position

FORMAT AND TOOLS

Ctrl + J
Justify paragraph or region

Ctrl + T
Execute a command

Ctrl + T › Ctrl + S
Spell check

VIEW TOGGLES

Alt + N
Toggle line numbers

Alt + S
Toggle soft wrapping

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

`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"
```