

GNU Texinfo Reference Card

(for Texinfo version 6.5)

<http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo/>

Texinfo document skeleton

Texinfo source files are plain text; standard extensions are ‘.texinfo’, ‘.texi’, and ‘.txi’. A Texinfo file must begin with lines like this:

```
\input texinfo
@setfilename info-file-name
@settitle name-of-manual
```

...the contents of the Texinfo document, ending with:
@bye

Texinfo @-commands

Beginning a Texinfo document

The commands in this section are given approximately in the order in which they conventionally appear.

@setfilename *info-file-name* Provide a name to be used for the output files. Should be the first command in the input.

@settitle *title* Specify document *title*.

@copying Specify copyright and licensing text. Pair with **@end copying**.

@insertcopying Insert text defined by **@copying**.

Internationalization

@documentencoding *enc* Declare the input encoding to be *enc*; use right after **@setfilename**. Default is US-ASCII; other possibilities: UTF-8, ISO-8859-1, koi8-r, ...

@documentlanguage *LL[_CC]* Declare the current language as the two-character ISO-639 abbreviation *LL*, optionally followed by an underscore and a two-letter ISO 3166 two-letter country code (*CC*). Default is en-US.

@frenchspacing on/off Control spacing after punctuation.

Info directory specifications

@dircategory *category name* Specify an Info directory section for this file’s entries. Can be repeated. We try to follow the categories in the Free Software Directory.

@direntry Begin the Info directory menu entries for this file. Pair with **@end direntry**.

HTML document description

@documentdescription Set the document description text for HTML; default is just the title of the document. Pair with **@end documentdescription**.

Title pages

@shorttitlepage *title* Generate a minimal title page, generally for the first page of output in a long printed manual.

@center line-of-text Center *line-of-text*, usually for titles.

@titlefont *{text}* In a printed manual, print *text* in a larger than normal font. Ignored in Info.

@titlepage Begin the title page. Write the command on a line of its own, paired with **@end titlepage**. Ignored in Info.

@title *title* Within **@titlepage**, display *title* appropriately.

@subtitle *subtitle* Within **@titlepage**, display *subtitle*.

@author *author* Within **@titlepage**, display *author*.

Tables of contents

@shortcontents Print a short table of contents (chapter-level entries only). Not relevant to Info.

@summarycontents Synonym for **@shortcontents**.

@contents Print a complete table of contents. Has no effect in Info, which uses menus instead.

Nodes

@node *name* Begin a new node.

@top *title* Mark the topmost **@node** in the file, which must be defined on the line immediately preceding **@top**. The *title* is formatted as a chapter-level heading. The entire top node, including the **@node** and **@top** lines, are normally enclosed with **@ifnottex** ... **@end ifnottex**.

@anchor *{name}* Define *name* as the current location, for use as a cross-reference target.

@novalidate Suppress validation of node references and omit creation of auxiliary files with T_EX. Use before **@setfilename**.

Chapter structuring

@lowersections Change subsequent chapters to sections, sections to subsections, and so on.

@raisesections Change subsequent sections to chapters, subsections to sections, and so on.

@part *title* Print part page, beginning a group of chapters; included in contents.

Numbered, included in contents

@chapter *title* Begin a numbered chapter; *title* appears in the table of contents.

@centerchap *title* Like **@chapter**, with chapter title centered.

Context-dependent, included in contents

@section *title* Begin a section within a chapter. Within **@chapter** and **@appendix**, the section is numbered; within **@unnumbered**, it is unnumbered.

@subsection *title* Begin a subsection within a section. Same context-dependent numbering as **@section**.

@subsubsection *title* Begin a numbered subsubsection within a subsection. Same context-dependent numbering as **@section**.

Unnumbered, included in contents

@unnumbered *title* Begin an unnumbered chapter.

@unnumberedsec *title* Begin an unnumbered section.

@unnumberedsubsec *title* Begin an unnumbered subsection.

@unnumberedsubsubsec *title* Begin an unnumbered subsubsection.

Lettered and numbered, included in contents

@appendix *title* Begin an appendix.

@appendixsec *title* Begin an appendix section within an appendix; **@appendixsection** is a synonym.

@appendixsubsec *title* Begin an appendix subsection;

@appendixsubsection is a synonym.

@appendixsubsubsec *title* Begin an appendix subsubsection;

@appendixsubsubsubsection is a synonym.

Unnumbered, not in contents, no new page

@chapheading *title* Print an unnumbered chapter-like heading.

@majorheading *title* Like **@chapheading**, but generate additional vertical whitespace before the heading.

@heading *title* Print an unnumbered section-like heading.

@subheading *title* Print an unnumbered subsection-like heading.

@subsubheading *title* Print an unnumbered subsubsection-like heading.

Menus

@menu Mark the beginning of a menu of nodes in Info. No effect in a printed manual. Pair with **@end menu**.

@detailmenu Mark the (optional) detailed node listing in a master menu.

Cross references

Within the Info system

@xref *{node, [entry], [node-title], [info-file], [manual]}* Makes a reference that starts with ‘See’ in a printed manual. Follow command with punctuation. Only the first argument is mandatory.

@pxref *{node, [entry], [node-title], [info-file], [manual]}* Like **@xref**, but starts with ‘see’ instead of ‘See’, and must be used inside parentheses.

@ref *{node, [entry], [node-title], [info-file], [manual]}* Like **@xref**, but produces only the bare reference without ‘See’ or ‘see’; must be followed by a punctuation mark.

@inforef *{node, [entry-name], info-file}* Make a cross reference to an Info file for which there is no printed manual.

@xrefautomaticsectiontitle on/off By default, use the section title instead of the node name in cross references.

Outside of Info

@url *{url, [displayed-text], [replacement]}* Make a hyperlink reference to a uniform resource locator. **@uref** is a synonym.

@cite *{title}* Indicate the name of a book or other reference that has no Info file; no hyperlink.

Marking text

Markup for regular text

@abbr *{abbreviation}* Indicate a general abbreviation, such as ‘Comput.’

@acronym *{acronym}* Indicate an acronym written in all capital letters, such as ‘NASA’.

@dfn *{term}* Indicate the introductory or defining use of a technical term.

@emph *{text}* Emphasize *text*, by using italics where possible, and enclosing in asterisks in Info.

@strong *{text}* Emphasize *text* even more strongly, by using bold where possible; still enclosed in asterisks in Info.

@sub *{text}* Set *text* as a subscript.

@sup *{text}* Set *text* as a superscript.

@var *{metasyntactic-variable}* Indicate a meta variable (a name that stands for another piece of text).

Markup for literal text

@code *{sample-code}* Indicate an expression, a syntactically complete token, or a program name. Unquoted in Info output.

@command *{command-name}* Indicate a system command name, such as **ls**.

@email *{address, [displayed-text]}* Indicate an email address.

@env *{environment-variable}* Indicate an environment variable name, such as **PATH**.

@file *{filename}* Indicate the name of a file, buffer, node, directory, etc.

@indicateurl *{url}* Indicate a uniform resource locator, but without creating any hyperlink.

`@kbd {keyboard-characters}` Indicate characters of input to be typed by users.

`@key {key-name}` Indicate the name of a key on a keyboard.

`@option {option-name}` Indicate a command-line option, such as `-v` and `--help`.

`@samp {text}` Indicate a sequence of literal characters, in general. Quoted in Info output.

`@verb {delimchar literal-text delimchar}` Output *literal-text*, delimited by the single character *delimchar*, exactly as is, including any whitespace or Texinfo special characters. Example: `@verb{|@ @|}`.

GUI sequences

`@arrow {}` Insert a right arrow glyph, \rightarrow .

`@clicksequence {action @click{ action ...}` Represent a sequence of GUI actions or clicks.

`@click {}` Represent a single ‘click’ in a `@clicksequence`.

`@clickstyle @cmd` Execute `@cmd` for each `@click`; default is `@arrow`. Empty braces usually following `@cmd` are omitted here.

Math

`@math {math}` Format the given math (inline); `\` becomes an escape character, and all plain \TeX math is available.

`@minus {}` Insert a minus sign, ‘ $-$ ’.

`@\` Inside `@math`, insert a math backslash, `\`.

`@geq {}` Insert a greater-than-or-equal sign, \geq .

`@leq {}` Insert a less-than-or-equal sign, \leq .

Explicit font selection

`@b {text}` Set *text* in a bold font.

`@i {text}` Set *text* in an italic font.

`@r {text}` Set *text* in the regular roman font.

`@sansserif {text}` Set *text* in a sans serif font if possible.

`@sc {text}` Set *text* in a small caps font in printed output, and uppercase in Info. No other font command has any effect in Info.

`@slanted {text}` Set *text* in a slanted (oblique) font if possible.

`@t {text}` Set *text* in a fixed-width, typewriter-like font.

Block environments

‘Environments’ in Texinfo begin with `@envname` on a line of its own and continue through the following lines of input until the corresponding `@end envname` is seen.

`@cartouche` Highlight a block of text by drawing a box with rounded corners around it. Pair with `@end cartouche`. No effect in Info.

`@xindent line-of-text` Output *line-of-text* without any indentation.

`@indent` Insert normal paragraph indentation.

`@noindent` Omit the normal indentation when starting a new paragraph; often used after environments.

Normally-filled displays using regular text fonts

In these environments, the input is automatically rebroken into lines of output as usual.

`@quotation` Fill text, indent on both left and right, retain normal text font. Often used for quoting text. Pair with `@end quotation`.

`@smallquotation` Like `@quotation`, but select a smaller (text) font where possible. Pair with `@end quotation`.

`@indentedblock` Fill text, indent on left (but not right), retain normal text font. Pair with `@end indentedblock`.

`@smallindentedblock` Like `@indentedblock`, but select a smaller (text) font where possible. Pair with `@end smallindentedblock`.

`@raggedright` Leave right end ragged, but otherwise fill text; retain normal text font. Pair with `@end raggedright`.

Line-for-line displays using regular text fonts

In these environments, each line of input is a line of output.

`@display` Begin displayed text: do not fill, but indent text on left; retain normal text font. Pair with `@end display`.

`@smalldisplay` Like `@display`, but select a smaller (text) font where possible. Pair with `@end smalldisplay`.

`@format` Begin formatted text: do not fill, retain normal margins and normal text font. Pair with `@end format`.

`@smallformat` Like `@format`, but select a smaller (text) font where possible. Pair with `@end smallformat`.

`@flushleft` Left justify lines, leaving the right end ragged: do not fill text, retain normal margins and normal text font. Pair with `@end flushleft`.

`@flushright` Right justify lines, leaving the left end ragged: do not fill text, retain normal margins and normal text font. Pair with `@end flushright`.

Displays using fixed-width fonts

In these environments also, each line of input is a line of output.

`@example` Begin an example. Indent text, do not fill, and select fixed-width font. Pair with `@end example`.

`@smallexample` Like `@example`, but where possible, print text in a smaller font. Pair with `@end smallexample`.

`@lisp` Like `@example`, but specifically for an example of Lisp code. Pair with `@end lisp`.

`@smalllisp` Begin an example specifically of Lisp code; same effects as `@smallexample`. Pair with `@end smalllisp`.

`@verbatim` Output the text of the environment exactly as is, without indentation. Pair with `@end verbatim`.

Lists and tables

`@itemize mark-command` Begin an unordered list, using `@item` for each entry, which consist of indented paragraphs, with a mark such as `@bullet` inside the left margin at the beginning of each item. Pair with `@end itemize`.

`@enumerate [number-or-letter]` Begin a numbered list, using `@item` for each entry. Optionally, start list with *number-or-letter* and count from there; by default, number consecutively from ‘1’. Pair with `@end enumerate`.

`@table formatting-command` Begin a two-column table (description list), using `@item` for each entry. Write each first column entry on the same line as `@item`. *formatting-command* is applied to each first column entry. Pair with `@end table`.

`@ftable formatting-command` Like `@table`, but automatically enter each first column entry in the function index.

`@vtable formatting-command` Like `@table`, but automatically enter each first column entry in the variable index.

`@multitable column-width-spec` Begin multi-column table; start rows with `@item` or `@headitem`. Pair with `@end multitable`.

`@tab` Separate columns in a row of a multitable.

`@item` Begin an item for the list and table commands.

`@itemx` Used only with `@table`. Like `@item` but do not generate extra preceding vertical space. When several items have the same description, use `@item` for the first and `@itemx` for the rest.

`@headitem` Used only for multitable. Like `@item`, but indicates a heading row.

`@headitemfont {text}` Set *text* in the heading row font.

`@asis text` Prints *text* as-is; used as *formatting-command* for tables when no highlighting is desired.

Floating displays

`@float` Environment enclosing material which can float. Pair with `@end float`.

`@listoffloats` Generate a list of floats for a given float type.

`@caption` Define the full caption for a `@float` anywhere in the float environment.

`@shortcaption` Define the short caption for a `@float`, used in the list of floats.

`@image {filename, [width], [height], [alt], [ext]}` Include graphics image in external *filename* scaled to the given width and/or height, using alt text and looking for ‘*filename.ext*’ first. Can occur inline or by itself on the page.

Footnotes

`@footnote {text-of-footnote}` Insert a footnote: *text-of-footnote* is printed at the bottom of the page by \TeX , while Info and others may format at either (by default) the end of the current node, or in a separate node.

`@footnotestyle style` Specify footnote style: ‘end’ or ‘separate’.

Indices

`@cindex entry` Add entry to the index of concepts.

`@findex entry` Add entry to the index of functions.

`@kindex entry` Add entry to the index of keys.

`@pindex entry` Add entry to the index of programs.

`@tindex entry` Add entry to the index of data types.

`@vindex entry` Add entry to the index of variables.

`@defindex newidx` Define a new index and its indexing command. Format entries as regular text.

`@defcodeindex newidx` Define a new index and its indexing command (namely, `@newidxindex`). Format entries in this index with `@code`.

`@syncodeindex from-index to-index` Merge the contents of *from-index* into *to-index*, formatting the entries in *from-index* with `@code`.

`@synindex from-index to-index` Merge the contents of *from-index* into *to-index*; no special formatting.

`@printindex index-name` Generate an alphabetized index (using two columns in a printed manual).

`@sortas {key}` Specify a string by which to sort an index entry.

Insertions within a paragraph

Characters special to Texinfo

`@@, @atchar {}` Insert an at sign, ‘@’.

`@{, @lbracechar {}` Insert a left brace, ‘{’.

`@}, @rbracechar {}` Insert a right brace, ‘}’.

`@backslashchar {}` Insert a typewriter backslash, `\`.

`@comma {}` Insert a comma character; needed only when a literal comma would be an argument separator, as in `@xref`.

`@hashchar {}` Insert a hash character, `#`; needed only when a literal hash would introduce a `#line` directive.

`@whitespace` An `@` followed by a space, tab, or newline produces a normal, stretchable, interword space.

Spacing refinements

`@:` Tell \TeX to refrain from inserting extra whitespace after an immediately preceding period, question mark, exclamation mark, or colon, as \TeX normally would.

@ifxml...@end ifxml Text to appear only in XML output.

`@ifnotdocbook @ifnothtml @ifnotplaintext @ifnottex @ifnotxml ...@end ifnotformat` Begin text to be ignored in one output format but no others: `@ifnothtml` text is omitted from HTML output, etc.

`@ifnotinfo ...@end ifnotinfo` Like the other `@ifnot...` commands, but omit from plain text output as well as Info.

`@inlinfmt {format, text}` Include Texinfo *text* only in *format* output.

`@inlinfmtifelse {format, then-text, else-text}` Include either *then-text* or *else-text* according to whether *format* is output.

Raw formatter text

`@docbook ...@end docbook` Enter Docbook completely.

`@html ...@end html` Enter HTML completely.

`@tex ...@end tex` Enter \TeX completely (e.g., `\` becomes an escape character).

`@xml ...@end xml` Enter XML completely.

`@inlineraw {format, text}` Include raw *text* only in *format* output.

Document variables

`@set name [string]` Define the Texinfo variable *name*, optionally to the value *string*.

`@clear name` Undefine *name*.

`@value {name}` Insert the value of *name*.

`@ifset name ...@end ifset` If *name* is set, format enclosed text.

`@ifclear name ...@end ifclear` If *name* is not set, format enclosed text.

`@inlineifset {name, text}` If *name* is set, format *text*.

`@inlineifclear {name, text}` If *name* is not set, format *text*.

Testing for commands

`@ifcommanddefined cmd ...@end ifcommanddefined`
Text to appear only if `@cmd` is defined ...

`@ifcommandnotdefined cmd ...@end ifcommandnotdefined`
... or not defined.

`txicommandconditionals` Texinfo variable predefined to true.

Defining new Texinfo commands

`@alias new=existing` Make the command `@new` a synonym for the existing command `@existing`.

`@macro macroname {params} ...@end macro` Define a new Texinfo command `@macroname`.

`@unmacro macroname` Undefine `@macroname` if it is defined.

`@definfoenclose newcmd, before, after` Can only be used within `@ifinfo`; create a new command that encloses its argument in the *before* and *after* strings.

File inclusion

`@include filename` Read the contents of Texinfo source file *filename*.

`@verbatiminclude filename` Incorporate the contents of *filename* in the output, exactly as is (in the fixed-width font).

Formatting and headers/footers for \TeX

`@allowcodebreaks true|false` Control breaks at - and _ in \TeX ; default true.

`@finalout` Omit large black rectangles at overfull lines in \TeX output.

`@fonttextsize 10|11` Change size of main body font in \TeX .

Paper sizes

The default paper size is US letter-size, 8x11in.

`@smallbook` Format for a 7x9.25in trim size.

`@afourpaper, @afivepaper` Format for A4 and A5 paper sizes.

`@afourlatex` Variant for A4 with more whitespace.

`@afourwide` Format for A4 in landscape.

`@pagesizes [width][, height]` Format for the explicitly given page dimensions, *width* by *height*.

Page headers and footers

`@oddfooting [left] @| [center] @| [right]`
`@oddheading [left] @| [center] @| [right]` Specify page footings resp. headings for odd-numbered (right-hand) pages.

`@evenfooting [left] @| [center] @| [right]`
`@evenheading [left] @| [center] @| [right]` Specify page footings resp. headings for even-numbered (left-hand) pages.

`@everyfooting [left] @| [center] @| [right]`
`@everyheading [left] @| [center] @| [right]` Specify page footings resp. headings for every page.

`@thischapter, @thischaptername, @thischapternum, @thisfile, @thispage, @thistitle` These commands are only allowed in a heading or footing. They stand for, respectively, the number and name of the current chapter (in the format ‘Chapter 1: Title’), the current chapter name only (‘Title’), the current chapter number only (‘1’), the filename, the current page number, and the title of the document.

Document preferences

It is usually best to omit any of these (merely preferential) settings from the Texinfo document, so users can easily override the defaults when processing the document.

`@codequoteundirected on|off` Use undirected single quote for ‘; default off.

`@codequotebacktick on|off` Use backtick (standalone grave accent) for ‘; default off.

`@deftypefnnewline on|off` Put return type on a line by itself; default off.

`@exampleindent indent` Indent example-like environments by *indent* number of spaces (perhaps 0).

`@firstparagraphindent insert|none` Indent first paragraphs after section headings, or not.

`@headings on|off|single|double` Turn page headings on or off, specify single-sided or double-sided page headings for printing.

`@kbdinputstyle code|distinct|example` Specify font for `@kbd`: normal `@code` font, a distinct (slanted) typewriter font, or a distinct font only within `@example` and similar.

`@paragraphindent indent` Indent paragraphs by *indent* number of spaces (perhaps 0); preserve source file indentation if *indent* is the string *asis*.

`@setchapternewpage on|off|odd` Specify whether chapters start on new pages, and if so, whether on odd-numbered (right-hand) new pages; also set page headings accordingly.

`@urefbreakstyle after|before|none` Specify how `@uref` should break at special characters; default *after*.

Ending a Texinfo document

`@bye` End reading the Texinfo source. Any following text in the file is ignored.

Finally, this meta-command doesn’t fit anywhere else:

`@errormsg {msg}` Report *msg* as an error.

Reading Info files

There are two main Info readers: `M-x info (C-h i)` in GNU Emacs, and the standalone `info` program. These basic keystrokes work in both.

q	Quit Info altogether.
h	Invoke the Info tutorial.
Up	Move up one line.
Down	Move down one line.
DEL	Scroll backward one screenful.
SPC	Scroll forward one screenful.
Home, b	Go to the beginning of this node.
End	Go to the end of this node.
TAB	Skip to the next hypertext link.
RET	Follow the hypertext link under the cursor.
l	Go back to the last node seen in this window.
[Go to the previous node in the document.
]	Go to the next node in the document.
P	Go to the previous node on this level.
n	Go to the next node on this level.
u	Go up one level.
t	Go to the top node of this document.
d	Go to the main ‘directory’ node.
1...9	Pick the first...ninth item in this node’s menu.
0	Pick the last item in this node’s menu.
m	Pick a menu item specified by name.
f	Follow a cross reference specified by name.
g	Go to a node specified by name.
s	Search forward for a specified string.
{	Search for previous occurrence.
}	Search for next occurrence.
i	Search for a specified string in the index, and select the node referenced by the first entry found.
I	Synthesize menu of matching index entries.
C-g	Cancel the current operation.

The Texinfo manual is available via `info texinfo` (and at <http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo/manual>).

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by Robert D. Solimeno
and the Texinfo maintainers

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