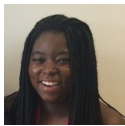


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# Git Rename Branch – How to Change a Local Branch Name



Jessica Wilkins

As you are building out a project, there might be times where you need to rename a local branch. But how do you do that in Git?

In this article, I will provide you with two methods for renaming local branches in Git.

## How to Rename a Branch in Git – Method #1

### Step 1: Make sure you are in the root directory for your project

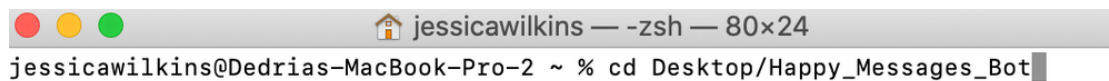
You will first need to open up your terminal and then `cd` (change directory) to the root of your project.

For example, this is what the command would look like if you were in the home directory and wanted to `cd` into the project which is

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```
cd Desktop/project-name
```

This is an example of changing directories to a project named  
Happy\_Messages\_Bot .

A screenshot of a macOS terminal window. The title bar shows three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) on the left, followed by a home icon and the text 'jessicawilkins — -zsh — 80x24'. The terminal content shows the prompt 'jessicawilkins@Dedrias-MacBook-Pro-2 ~ %' followed by the command 'cd Desktop/Happy\_Messages\_Bot' and a cursor at the end of the line.

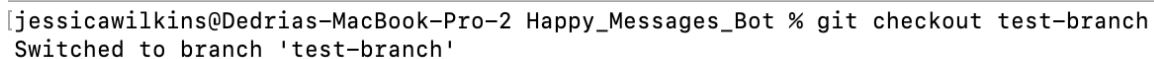
```
jessicawilkins@Dedrias-MacBook-Pro-2 ~ % cd Desktop/Happy_Messages_Bot
```

## Step 2: Go to the branch you want to rename

We can use the `git checkout` command to switch to another branch.

```
git checkout branch-name
```

In this example, I want to switch over to the `test-branch` I created.

A screenshot of a terminal window showing the execution of the 'git checkout' command. The prompt is 'jessicawilkins@Dedrias-MacBook-Pro-2 Happy\_Messages\_Bot %' and the command is 'git checkout test-branch'. The output is 'Switched to branch 'test-branch'' followed by a cursor.

```
jessicawilkins@Dedrias-MacBook-Pro-2 Happy_Messages_Bot % git checkout test-branch
Switched to branch 'test-branch'
```

## Step 3: Use the `-m` flag to change the name of the branch

This is what the command would look like to change the name of the

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```
git branch -m new-branch-name
```

In this example, I want to change my branch name from `test-branch` to `test-branch2`.

```
git branch -m test-branch2
```

You can use `git status` to see your new branch name.

```
On branch test-branch2
nothing to commit, working tree clean
```

## How to Rename a Branch in Git – Method #2

We can rename the local branch in just one command without having to use `git checkout`.

### Step 1: Make sure you are in the master/main branch

To check if you are in the master/main branch, run `git status`:

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If you are not in the master/main branch, then you will need to run `git checkout master` or `git checkout main`.

```
jessicawilkins@Dedrias-MacBook-Pro-2 Happy_Messages_Bot % git checkout master
Switched to branch 'master'
```

## Step 2: Use the `-m` flag to rename the branch

You can use this syntax to rename the old branch to something new.

```
git branch -m old-branch new-branch
```

This is what it would look like to rename the `test-branch` to `test-branch2`.

```
git branch -m test-branch test-branch2
```

To see your new branch name, you can run `git branch` which will list all of your branches.

```
jessicawilkins@Dedrias-MacBook-Pro-2 Happy_Messages_Bot % git branch
* master
  test-branch2
```

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**Jessica Wilkins**

I am a musician and a programmer.

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