

**NAME**

**mt** – control magnetic tape drive operation

**SYNOPSIS**

**mt** [-V] [-f *device*] [--file=*device*] [--rsh-command=*command*] [--version] *operation* [*count*]

**DESCRIPTION**

This manual page documents the GNU version of **mt**. **mt** performs the given *operation*, which must be one of the tape operations listed below, on a tape drive.

The default tape device to operate on is taken from the file `/usr/include/sys/mtio.h` when **mt** is compiled. It can be overridden by giving a device file name in the environment variable **TAPE** or by a command line option (see below), which also overrides the environment variable.

The device must be either a character special file or a remote tape drive. To use a tape drive on another machine as the archive, use a filename that starts with 'HOSTNAME:'. The hostname can be preceded by a username and an '@' to access the remote tape drive as that user, if you have permission to do so (typically an entry in that user's '~/.rhosts' file).

The available operations are listed below. Unique abbreviations are accepted. Not all operations are available on all systems, or work on all types of tape drives. Some operations optionally take a repeat count, which can be given after the operation name and defaults to 1.

**eof, weof**

Write *count* EOF marks at current position.

**fsf** Forward space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the next file.

**bsf** Backward space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the next file.

**fsr** Forward space *count* records.

**bsr** Backward space *count* records.

**bsfm** Backward space *count* file marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-the-tape side of the file mark.

**fsfm** Forward space *count* file marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-the-tape side of the file mark.

**asf** Absolute space to file number *count*. Equivalent to rewind followed by **fsf** *count*.

**seek** Seek to block number *count*.

**eom** Space to the end of the recorded media on the tape (for appending files onto tapes).

**rewind** Rewind the tape.

**offline, rewoffl**

Rewind the tape and, if applicable, unload the tape.

**status** Print status information about the tape unit.

**retension**

Rewind the tape, then wind it to the end of the reel, then rewind it again.

**erase** Perform long erase of tape. If *count* is 0, perform short erase of tape (some devices do not support this).

**mt** exits with a status of 0 if the operation succeeded, 1 if the operation or device name given was invalid, or 2 if the operation failed.

**OPTIONS**

**-f, --file=***device*

Use *device* as the file name of the tape drive to operate on. To use a tape drive on another machine, use a filename that starts with 'HOSTNAME:'. The hostname can be preceded by a username and an '@' to access the remote tape drive as that user, if you have permission to do so (typically an entry in that user's '~/.rhosts' file).

**--rsh-command=command**

Notifies **mt** that it should use *command* to communicate with remote devices instead of **/usr/bin/ssh** or **/usr/bin/rsh**.

**-V, --version**

Print the version number of **mt**.

## BUG REPORTS

Report bugs to <bug-cpio@gnu.org>.

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