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Producing Patches

The basic command for producing patches is **git format-patch**. The arguments given control which and how many patches are produced.

For example, doing:

```
1    $ git format-patch -3
```

will produce a patch file for each of the last 3 commits, with names like:

```
1    0001-This-is-the-first-commit.patch
2    0002-This-is-the-second-commit.patch
```

where the names are generated from the commit messages, and they are sequentially ordered in historical sequence. Each patch will cover all files that have been changed in the commit in one single patch.

You can also do something like:

```
1    $ git format-patch master
```

to get all changes since the branch off the master branch, or use any kind of commit identifier or tag, and you can also specify a range of commits.

There are plenty of other options. A good one to use is **--signoff** or **-s** which adds a line in the form of:

```
1    Signed-off-by: A Smart Guy <asmartguy@linux.com>
```

according to the settings in your configuration file. This leads a clear trail as to who contributed what and is mandatory in some projects, such as the Linux kernel.