The RPM spec File

A **spec** file is a collection of package information and shell scripts. Many of of the shell scripts are very short (one line scripts are common). Each script performs one of the tasks necessary in building, installing, or uninstalling a package. The main sections of the file are:

Section Name	Required?	Section Type	Purpose
Header (start of file)	Y	Data fields	Provide the rpm -i data
%description	Y	ASCII text	Provide a text description of the package
%prep	Y	Shell script	Unpack source code and apply patches
%changelog	Y	Change history	History of changes
%build	Y	Shell script	Build the binary from the unpacked sources
%install	Y	Shell script	Copy the binaries to their destination
%files	Y	List	Every file that the package provides is listed
%clean	N	Shell script	Cleans up the sources after a build is done
%pre	N	Shell script	Steps to take before installation of package
%post	N	Shell script	Steps to take after installation of package

Section Name	Required?	Section Type	Purpose
%preun	N	Shell script	Steps to take before removal of package
%postun	N	Shell script	Steps to take after removal of package

Note that RPM makes heavy use of macros. The file **/usr/lib/rpm/macros** contains those already available and may be worth examining.