

# GNU Texinfo Reference Card

(for Texinfo version 4.13)

<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 follow, 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. This command is essential for T<sub>E</sub>X formatting as well, even though it produces no output. Should be the first command in the input.

**@settitle** *title* Specify document *title*.

#### *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.

#### *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.

**@setcontentsaftertitlepage** Put the table of contents after the ‘@end titlepage’ even if the **@contents** is at the end.

**@setshortcontentsaftertitlepage** Place the short table of contents after the ‘@end titlepage’ command even if the **@shortcontents** command is at the end.

## Nodes

**@node** *name, next, previous, up* Begin a new node. The *next*, *previous*, and *up* pointers are usually omitted in a normally-structured document.

**@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<sub>E</sub>X. 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.

#### *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;

**@appendixsubsubsection** 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.

#### *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 words and phrases

#### *Markup for regular text*

**@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.

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

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

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

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

#### *Markup for literal text*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

`@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{|@ @|}`.

*Explicit font selection*

`@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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Quotation and example environments**

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

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

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

`@cartouche` Highlight an example or quotation by drawing a box with rounded corners around it. Pair with `@end cartouche`. No effect in Info.

*Displays in regular text fonts*

`@format` Begin formatted text: do not fill text; 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`.

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

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

`@flushleft` Left justify lines: 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`.

`@quotation` Narrow both margins to indicate text that is quoted from another work; do normal line breaking and retain normal font. Takes optional argument of prefix text. Pair with `@end quotation`.

`@raggedright` Left justify lines, leaving the right end ragged: fill text, retain normal text font. Pair with `@end raggedright`.

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

*Displays using fixed-width fonts*

`@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.

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

**Floating displays**

`@float` Environment within which floating material is defined. Pair with `@end float`.

`@listoffloats` Produce 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}` Produce a footnote: *text-of-footnote* is printed at the bottom of the page by T<sub>E</sub>X, 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.

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

`@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.

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

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

`@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).

**Insertions within a paragraph**

*Characters special to Texinfo*

`@@` Insert an at sign, ‘@’.

`@{` Produce a left brace, ‘{’.

`@}` Produce a right brace, ‘}’.

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

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

*Spacing refinements*

`@:` Tell T<sub>E</sub>X to refrain from inserting extra whitespace after an immediately preceding period, question mark, exclamation mark, or colon, as T<sub>E</sub>X normally would.

`@.` Produce a period that ends a sentence; typically needed after an end-of-sentence capital letter.

`@?` Produce a question mark that ends a sentence.

`@!` Produce an exclamation point that ends a sentence.

`@dmn {dimension}` Format a unit of measure, as in ‘12 pt’. Causes T<sub>E</sub>X to insert a thin space before *dimension*. No effect in Info.

*Accents*

Braces are optional for the arguments to the accent commands, with the exception of `@tieaccent`.

`@" c` Generate an umlaut, ö.

`@' c` Generate an acute accent, ó.

`@, c` Generate a cedilla accent, ç.

`@= c` Generate a macron accent, ô.

`@^ c` Generate a circumflex (hat) accent, ô.

`@' c` Generate a grave accent, ó.

`@~ c` Generate a tilde accent, õ.

`@dotaccent c` Generate a dot (over) accent, ô.

`@H c` Generate a long Hungarian umlaut accent, ô.

`@ogonek c` Generate an ogonek diacritic, ą.

`@ringaccent c` Generate a ring accent, ô.

`@tieaccent {cc}` Generate a tie-after accent, öö; argument must be given in braces.

`@u c` Generate a breve accent, ô.

`@ubaraccent c` Generate an underbar accent, ȳ.

`@udotaccent c` Generate an underdot accent, ȳ.

`@v c` Generate a check (hacek) accent, ô.

*Non-English characters*

`@AA {}, @aa {}` Generate uppercase Å and lowercase å.

`@AE {}, @ae {}` Generate uppercase Æ and lowercase æ.

`@L {}, @l {}` Generate uppercase L and lowercase l.

`@O {}, @o {}` Generate uppercase Ø and lowercase ø.

## Defining new Texinfo commands

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

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

`@finalout` Tell TeX to omit the large black rectangles beside over-wide lines.

Paper sizes

The default paper size is US letter-size, 8x11"xx.  
`@smallbook` Format for a 7x9.25"xx trim size.  
`@afourpaper`, `@afivepaper` Format for A4 and A5 paper sizes.  
`@afourlatex` A 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 settings from the Texinfo document, thus allowing users to override the defaults when processing the document according to their needs.  
`@setchapternewpage on|off|odd` Specify whether chapters start on new pages, and if so, whether on odd-numbered (right-hand) new pages; also set the page headings accordingly.  
`@headings on|off|single|double` Turn page headings on or off, specify single-sided or double-sided page headings for printing.  
`@paragraphindent indent` Indent paragraphs by *indent* number of spaces (perhaps 0); preserve source file indentation if *indent* is the string *asis*.  
`@exampleindent indent` Indent example-like environments by *indent* number of spaces (perhaps 0).  
`@kbdinputstyle style` Specify when `@kbd` should use a font distinct from `@code`.

Ending a Texinfo document

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

Editing Texinfo sources in Emacs

The Texinfo major mode in GNU Emacs is for editing Texinfo source files. To enter Texinfo mode, visit a source file with one of the supported extensions. This list of mode commands is from Emacs 22.1.

texinfo-show-structure	C-c C-s
up-list	C-c ]
up-list	C-c }
texinfo-insert-quote	"
texinfo-insert-@item	M-RET
texinfo-insert-block	C-c C-o
texinfo-insert-braces	C-c {
texinfo-start-menu-description	C-c C-c C-d
texinfo-insert-@emph	C-c C-c C-e
texinfo-insert-@strong	C-c C-c C-s
texinfo-insert-@code	C-c C-c c
texinfo-insert-@dfn	C-c C-c d
texinfo-insert-@end	C-c C-c e
texinfo-insert-@file	C-c C-c f
texinfo-insert-@item	C-c C-c i
texinfo-insert-@kbd	C-c C-c k
texinfo-insert-@email	C-c C-c m
texinfo-insert-@node	C-c C-c n
texinfo-insert-@noindent	C-c C-c o
texinfo-insert-@quotation	C-c C-c q
texinfo-insert-@samp	C-c C-c s
texinfo-insert-@table	C-c C-c t
texinfo-insert-@uref	C-c C-c u
texinfo-insert-@var	C-c C-c v
texinfo-insert-@example	C-c C-c x
texinfo-all-menus-update	C-c C-u C-a
texinfo-every-node-update	C-c C-u C-e
texinfo-make-menu	C-c C-u RET
texinfo-update-node	C-c C-u C-n
texinfo-master-menu	C-c C-u m
texinfo-format-buffer	C-c C-e C-b
texinfo-format-region	C-c C-e C-r
makeinfo-buffer	C-c RET C-b
kill-compilation	C-c RET C-k
makeinfo-recenter-compilation-buffer	C-c RET C-l
makeinfo-region	C-c RET C-r
ispell-complete-word	M-TAB
texinfo-tex-buffer	C-c C-t C-b
texinfo-delete-from-print-queue	C-c C-t C-d
texinfo-texindex	C-c C-t TAB
tex-kill-job	C-c C-t C-k
tex-recenter-output-buffer	C-c C-t C-l
texinfo-tex-print	C-c C-t C-p
tex-show-print-queue	C-c C-t C-q
texinfo-tex-region	C-c C-t C-r
texinfo-tex-view	C-c C-t C-v
texinfo-quit-job	C-c C-t C-x

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 are for standalone Info, but most work in Emacs Info as well.

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	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.
1	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.
r	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.
C-g	Cancel the current operation.

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

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