

**NAME**

**rgbasm** — Game Boy assembler

**SYNOPSIS**

```
rgbasm [ -EHhLlVvw] [ -b chars] [ -D name[=value]] [ -g chars] [ -I path]
[ -M depend_file] [ -MG] [ -MP] [ -MT target_file] [ -MQ target_file]
[ -o out_file] [ -P include_file] [ -p pad_value] [ -Q fix_precision]
[ -r recursion_depth] [ -W warning] asmfile
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **rgbasm** program creates an RGB object file from an assembly source file. The object file format is documented in **rgbds**(5).

The input *asmfile* can be a path to a file, or **-** to read from standard input.

Note that options can be abbreviated as long as the abbreviation is unambiguous: **--verb** is **--verbose**, but **--ver** is invalid because it could also be **--version**. The arguments are as follows:

**-b** *chars*, **--binary-digits** *chars*

Change the two characters used for binary constants. The defaults are 01.

**-D** *name*[=*value*], **--define** *name*[=*value*]

Add a string symbol to the compiled source code. This is equivalent to *name* **EQU** "*value*" in code, or *name* **EQU** "1" if *value* is not specified.

**-E**, **--export-all**

Export all labels, including unreferenced and local labels.

**-g** *chars*, **--gfx-chars** *chars*

Change the four characters used for gfx constants. The defaults are 0123.

**-H**, **--nop-after-halt**

Inserts a **nop** instruction immediately after any **halt** instruction. This option is deprecated and will be removed in the next version.

**-h**, **--halt-without-nop**

This option is redundant and will be removed in the next version.

**-I** *path*, **--include** *path*

Add a new “include path”; *path* must point to a directory. When **INCLUDE** (including the implicit one from **-P**) or **INCBIN** is attempted, **rgbasm** first looks up the provided path from its working directory; if this fails, it tries again from each of the “include path” directories, in the order they were provided.

**-L**, **--preserve-ld**

This option is redundant and will be removed in the next version.

**-l**, **--auto-ldh**

Optimize loads of the form **LD** [**\$FF00+n8**],**A** into the opcode **LDH** [**\$FF00+n8**],**A**. This option is deprecated and will be removed in the next version.

**-M** *depend\_file*, **--dependfile** *depend\_file*

Print **make**(1) dependencies to *depend\_file*.

**-MG**

To be used in conjunction with **-M**. This makes **rgbasm** assume that missing files are auto-generated: when **INCLUDE** (including the implicit one from **-P**) or **INCBIN** is attempted on a non-existent file, it is added as a dependency, then **rgbasm** exits normally instead of erroring out. This feature is used in automatic updating of makefiles.

- MP** When enabled, this causes a phony target to be added for each dependency other than the main file. This prevents `make(1)` from erroring out when dependency files are deleted.
- MT** *target\_file*  
Add a target to the rules emitted by **-M**. The exact string provided will be written, including spaces and special characters.  
  - MT** fileA **-MT** fileB
 is equivalent to  
  - MT** 'fileA fileB'.
 If neither this nor **-MQ** is specified, the output file name is used.
- MQ** *target\_file*  
Same as **-MT**, but additionally escapes any special `make(1)` characters, essentially '\$'.
- o** *out\_file*, **--output** *out\_file*  
Write an object file to the given filename.
- P** *include\_file*, **--preinclude** *include\_file*  
Pre-include a file. This acts as if a **INCLUDE** "*include\_file*" was read before the input *asmfile*.
- p** *pad\_value*, **--pad-value** *pad\_value*  
Use this as the value for **DS** directives in ROM sections, unless overridden. The default is 0x00.
- Q** *fix\_precision*, **--q-precision** *fix\_precision*  
Use this as the precision of fixed-point numbers after the decimal point, unless they specify their own precision. The default is 16, so fixed-point numbers are Q16.16 (since they are 32-bit integers). The argument may start with a '.' to match the Q notation, for example, **-Q** .16.
- r** *recursion\_depth*, **--recursion-depth** *recursion\_depth*  
Specifies the recursion depth past which RGBASM will assume being in an infinite loop. The default is 64.
- V**, **--version**  
Print the version of the program and exit.
- v**, **--verbose**  
Be verbose.
- W** *warning*, **--warning** *warning*  
Set warning flag *warning*. A warning message will be printed if *warning* is an unknown warning flag. See the **DIAGNOSTICS** section for a list of warnings.
- w** Disable all warning output, even when turned into errors.

## DIAGNOSTICS

Warnings are diagnostic messages that indicate possibly erroneous behavior that does not necessarily compromise the assembling process. The following options alter the way warnings are processed.

- Werror**  
Make all warnings into errors.
- Werror=**  
Make the specified warning into an error. A warning's name is appended (example: **-Werror=obsolete**), and this warning is implicitly enabled and turned into an error. This is an error if used with a meta warning, such as **-Werror=all**.

The following warnings are “meta” warnings, that enable a collection of other warnings. If a specific warning is toggled via a meta flag and a specific one, the more specific one takes priority. The position on the command-line acts as a tie breaker, the last one taking effect.

**-Wall**

This enables warnings that are likely to indicate an error or undesired behavior, and that can easily be fixed.

**-Wextra**

This enables extra warnings that are less likely to pose a problem, but that may still be wanted.

**-Weverything**

Enables literally every warning.

The following warnings are actual warning flags; with each description, the corresponding warning flag is included. Note that each of these flag also has a negation (for example, **-Wcharmap-redef** enables the warning that **-Wno-charmap-redef** disables). Only the non-default flag is listed here. Ignoring the “no-” prefix, entries are listed alphabetically.

**-Wno-assert**

Warn when **WARN**-type assertions fail. (See “Aborting the assembly process” in `rgbasm(5)` for **ASSERT**).

**-Wbackwards-for**

Warn when **FOR** loops have their start and stop values switched according to the step value. This warning is enabled by **-Wall**.

**-Wbuiltin-args**

Warn about incorrect arguments to built-in functions, such as **STRSUB()** with indexes outside of the string’s bounds. This warning is enabled by **-Wall**.

**-Wcharmap-redef**

Warn when re-defining a charmap mapping. This warning is enabled by **-Wall**.

**-Wdiv**

Warn when dividing the smallest negative integer ( $-2^{31}$ ) by -1, which yields itself due to integer overflow.

**-Wempty-macro-arg**

Warn when a macro argument is empty. This warning is enabled by **-Wextra**.

**-Wempty-strrpl**

Warn when **STRRPL()** is called with an empty string as its second argument (the substring to replace). This warning is enabled by **-Wall**.

**-Wlarge-constant**

Warn when a constant too large to fit in a signed 32-bit integer is encountered. This warning is enabled by **-Wall**.

**-Wlong-string**

Warn when a string too long to fit in internal buffers is encountered. This warning is enabled by **-Wall**.

**-Wmacro-shift**

Warn when shifting macro arguments past their limits. This warning is enabled by **-Wextra**.

**-Wno-obsolete**

Warn when obsolete constructs such as the **\_PI** constant or **PRINTT** directive are encountered.

**-Wnumeric-string=**

Warn when a multi-character string is treated as a number. **-Wnumeric-string=0** or **-Wno-numeric-string** disables this warning. **-Wnumeric-string=1** or just **-Wnumeric-string** warns about strings longer than four characters, since four or fewer characters fit within a 32-bit integer. **-Wnumeric-string=2** warns about any multi-character string.

**-Wshift**

Warn when shifting right a negative value. Use a division by  $2^{**N}$  instead.

**-Wshift-amount**

Warn when a shift's operand is negative or greater than 32.

**-Wtruncation=**

Warn when an implicit truncation (for example, **db** to an 8-bit value) loses some bits. **-Wtruncation=0** or **-Wno-truncation** disables this warning. **-Wtruncation=1** warns when an N-bit value is  $2^{**N}$  or greater, or less than  $-2^{**N}$ . **-Wtruncation=2** or just **-Wtruncation** also warns when an N-bit value is less than  $-2^{**(N-1)}$ , which will not fit in two's complement encoding.

**-Wunmapped-char=**

Warn when a character goes through charmap conversion but has no defined mapping. **-Wunmapped-char=0** or **-Wunmapped-char** disables this warning. **-Wunmapped-char=1** or just **-Wunmapped-char** only warns if the active charmap is not empty. **-Wunmapped-char=2** warns if the active charmap is empty, and/or is not the default charmap 'main'.

**-Wno-user**

Warn when the **WARN** built-in is executed. (See "Aborting the assembly process" in `rgbasm(5)` for **WARN**).

**EXAMPLES**

You can assemble a source file in two ways.

Straightforward way:

```
$ rgbasm -o bar.o foo.asm
```

Pipes way:

```
$ cat foo.asm | rgbasm -o bar.o -
$ rgbasm -o bar.o - < foo.asm
```

The resulting object file is not yet a usable ROM image—it must first be run through `rgblink(1)` and then `rgbfix(1)`.

**BUGS**

Please report bugs on *GitHub*: <https://github.com/gbdev/rgbds/issues>.

**SEE ALSO**

`rgbasm(5)`, `rgbfix(1)`, `rgblink(1)`, `rgbds(5)`, `rgbds(7)`, `gbz80(7)`

**HISTORY**

**rgbasm** was originally written by Carsten Sørensen as part of the ASMotor package, and was later packaged in RGBDS by Justin Lloyd. It is now maintained by a number of contributors at <https://github.com/gbdev/rgbds>.