

**NAME**

flex – the fast lexical analyser generator

**SYNOPSIS**

**flex** [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*]...

**DESCRIPTION**

Generates programs that perform pattern-matching on text.

**Table Compression:**

- Ca, --align**  
trade off larger tables for better memory alignment
- Ce, --ecs**  
construct equivalence classes
- Cf** do not compress tables; use **-f** representation
- CF** do not compress tables; use **-F** representation
- Cm, --meta-ecs**  
construct meta-equivalence classes
- Cr, --read**  
use read() instead of stdio for scanner input
- f, --full**  
generate fast, large scanner. Same as **-Cfr**
- F, --fast**  
use alternate table representation. Same as **-Cfr**
- Cem** default compression (same as **--ecs --meta-ecs**)

**Debugging:**

- d, --debug**  
enable debug mode in scanner
- b, --backup**  
write backing-up information to lex.backup
- p, --perf-report**  
write performance report to stderr
- s, --nodefault**  
suppress default rule to ECHO unmatched text
- T, --trace**  
flex should run in trace mode
- w, --nowarn**  
do not generate warnings
- v, --verbose**  
write summary of scanner statistics to stdout
- hex** use hexadecimal numbers instead of octal in debug outputs

**FILES**

- o, --outfile=FILE**  
specify output filename
- S, --skel=FILE**  
specify skeleton file
- t, --stdout**  
write scanner on stdout instead of lex.yy.c

**--yyclass=NAME**  
name of C++ class

**--header-file=FILE**  
create a C header file in addition to the scanner

**--tables-file[=FILE]** write tables to FILE

**--backup-file=FILE**  
write backing-up information to FILE

#### Scanner behavior:

**-7, --7bit**  
generate 7-bit scanner

**-8, --8bit**  
generate 8-bit scanner

**-B, --batch**  
generate batch scanner (opposite of **-I**)

**-i, --case-insensitive**  
ignore case in patterns

**-l, --lex-compatible**  
maximal compatibility with original lex

**-X, --posix-compatible**  
maximal compatibility with POSIX lex

**-I, --interactive**  
generate interactive scanner (opposite of **-B**)

**--yylineno**  
track line count in yylineno

#### Generated code:

**+, --c++**  
generate C++ scanner class

**-Dmacro[=defn]**  
#define macro defn (default defn is '1')

**-L, --noline**  
suppress #line directives in scanner

**-P, --prefix=STRING**  
use STRING as prefix instead of "yy"

**-R, --reentrant**  
generate a reentrant C scanner

**--bison-bridge**  
scanner for bison pure parser.

**--bison-locations**  
include yylloc support.

**--stdinit**  
initialize yyin/yyout to stdin/stdout

**--nounistd**  
do not include <unistd.h>

**--noFUNCTION**  
do not generate a particular FUNCTION

**Miscellaneous:**

- c**       do-nothing POSIX option
- n**       do-nothing POSIX option
- ?**
- h, --help**  
          produce this help message
- V, --version**  
          report flex version

**SEE ALSO**

The full documentation for **flex** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **flex** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info flex**

should give you access to the complete manual.