

## Methods

### add\_column

Creates a new column on the specified table.

```
add_column :table_name, :column_name, :column_type, {options}
```

- `:null => true or false` - if false, the underlying column has a not null constraint added by the database engine
- `:limit => size` - set a limit on the size of the field
- `:default => "value"` - set a default value for the column

### add\_index

Creates an index for the specified table.

```
add_index :table_name, :column_name, :unique => true
```

### change\_column

Change the data type of the specified column

```
change_column :table_name, :column_name, :new_column_type, {options} as for add_column
```

### create\_table

Creates a table on the database. Creates a table called `:table_name` and makes the table object available to a block that can then add columns to it, following the same format as `add_column`.

- ```
create_table :table_name, options do |t|
  t.column :column_name, :column_type, {options}
end
```
- `:force => true` - forces drop of an existing table of the same name before creation the new one
  - `:temporary => true` - creates a temporary table, one that goes away when the application disconnects from the database
  - `:id => false` - defines a table with no primary key, for example when you need to define a join table
  - `:primary_key => :new_primary_key_name` - overrides the default name of `:id` for the primary column: use this to specify the name of the column in the database that Rails will use to store the primary key
  - `:options => ""` - lets you specify options to your underlying database, e.g. `auto_increment = 10000` will lose the default `ENGINE=InnoDB` statement

### execute

Takes a single string identifying a valid SQL command to execute directly.

```
execute "alter table line_items add constraint fk_line_item_products foreign key (product_id) references products(id)"
```

### IrreversibleMigration

Use in the `down` method of a migration file to raise an exception when the `up` methods of the same migration file can not be reversed, e.g. changing a column type from `:integer` to `:string`.

```
raise ActiveRecord::IrreversibleMigration
```

### rename\_table

Renames the specified table.

```
rename_table :new_table_name, :old_table_name
```

### rename\_column

Renames the specified column.

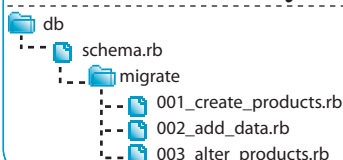
```
rename_table :old_column_name, :new_column_name
```

### remove\_index

Remove an index for the specified table.

```
remove_index :table_name, :column_name
```

## directory structure



## Rake tasks

Generate migration

```
ruby script/generate migration your_chosen_migration_name
```

Run all unapplied migrations

```
rake db:migrate
```

Migrate database to specific version

```
rake db:migrate VERSION=18
```

Use migrations to recreate tables in the testing or production databases

```
rake db:migrate RAILS_ENV=production
```

Create a `db/schema.rb` file that can be portably used against any database supported by ActiveRecord

```
rake db:schema:dump
```

Load a `schema.rb` file into the database

```
rake db:schema:load
```

Dump database structure to SQL file

```
rake db:structure:dump
```

Load fixtures from test/fixtures into the current environment's database

```
rake db:fixtures:load
```

Create a sessions table for use with `CGI::Session` `s::ActiveRecordStore`

```
rake db:sessions:create
```

Clear the sessions table

```
rake db:sessions:clear
```

clone your database structure into the test database

```
rake db:test:prepare
```

Empty the test database

```
rake db:test:purge
```

## Fixtures

Fixtures contain data which can be loaded into your database using migrations. For example, to load data into a table named `customers`...

1. Create a directory, `db/migrate/data`
2. Create a file, `customers.yml`, inside `db/migrate/data`
3. Generate a new migration file: `ruby script/generate migration load_customers_data`
4. Edit it to load data from the `customers.yml` file into your customers table

### customers.yml

```
melissa:
  name: Melissa Jayne
  age: 18
david:
  name: David Woodford
  age: 23
```

### xxx\_load\_customer\_data.rb

```
require 'active_record/fixtures'
class LoadCustomerData
  def self.up
    down
    directory = File.join(File.dirname(__FILE__), "data")
    Fixtures.create_fixtures(directory, "customers")
  end
  def self.down
    Customer.delete_all
  end
end
```



## db/migrate/example\_001.rb

```
class CreateCustomers < ActiveRecord::Migration
  def self.up
    # Create "Customers" table
    create_table :customers, :primary_key => :customer_id, :options => "auto_increment = 10000" do |t|
      # Add columns to "Customers" table
      t.column :customer_id, :integer
      t.column :name, :string, :limit => 30, :null => false
      t.column :age, :integer
      t.column :premium, :boolean, :default => 0
      t.column :photo, :binary, :limit => 2.megabytes
      t.column :thumbnail, :binary, :limit => 256.kilobytes
      t.column :dob, :date, :null => false
      t.column :created_at, :timestamp
      t.column :notes, :text, :default => "No notes recorded"
    end
    # Add "surname" column to "Customers" table
    add_column :customers, :surname, :string, :limit => 50
    # Add "price" column to "Orders" table
    add_column :orders, :price, :decimal, :precision => 8, :scale => 2
    # Create a record on the "Customers" table
    Customer.create :name => "David", :surname => "Smith", :age => "32", :premium => "1", :notes => "One of our top customers!"
  end
  def self.down
    # Delete the "Customers" table
    drop_table :customers
  end
end
```

## Mapping

|                   | db2          | mysql        | openbase   | Oracle       | postgresql | sqlite       | sqlserver    | Sybase       |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>:binary</b>    | blob(32768)  | blob         | object     | blob         | bytea      | blob         | image        | image        |
| <b>:boolean</b>   | decimal(1)   | tinyint(1)   | boolean    | number(1)    | boolean    | boolean      | bit          | bit          |
| <b>:date</b>      | date         | date         | date       | date         | date       | date         | datetime     | datetime     |
| <b>:datetime</b>  | timestamp    | datetime     | datetime   | date         | timestamp  | datetime     | datetime     | datetime     |
| <b>:decimal</b>   | decimal      | decimal      | decimal    | decimal      | decimal    | decimal      | decimal      | decimal      |
| <b>:float</b>     | float        | float        | float      | number       | float      | float        | float(8)     | float(8)     |
| <b>:integer</b>   | int          | int(11)      | integer    | number(38)   | integer    | integer      | int          | int          |
| <b>:string</b>    | varchar(255) | varchar(255) | char(4096) | varchar(255) | *          | varchar(255) | varchar(255) | varchar(255) |
| <b>:text</b>      | clob(32768)  | text         | text       | clob         | text       | text         | text         | text         |
| <b>:time</b>      | time         | time         | time       | date         | time       | datetime     | datetime     | time         |
| <b>:timestamp</b> | timestamp    | datetime     | timestamp  | date         | timestamp  | datetime     | datetime     | timestamp    |