

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM total;
```

```
+-----+
| a | message |
+-----+
| 1 | Testing |
| 2 | table   |
| 3 | t1      |
| 1 | Testing |
| 2 | table   |
| 3 | t2      |
+-----+
```

To remap a [MERGE](#) table to a different collection of [MyISAM](#) tables, you can use one of the following methods:

- [DROP](#) the [MERGE](#) table and re-create it.
- Use [ALTER TABLE *tbl_name* UNION=\(...\)](#) to change the list of underlying tables.

It is also possible to use [ALTER TABLE ... UNION=\(\)](#) (that is, with an empty [UNION](#) clause) to remove all of the underlying tables. However, in this case, the table is effectively empty and inserts fail because there is no underlying table to take new rows. Such a table might be useful as a template for creating new [MERGE](#) tables with [CREATE TABLE ... LIKE](#).

The underlying table definitions and indexes must conform closely to the definition of the [MERGE](#) table. Conformance is checked when a table that is part of a [MERGE](#) table is opened, not when the [MERGE](#) table is created. If any table fails the conformance checks, the operation that triggered the opening of the table fails. This means that changes to the definitions of tables within a [MERGE](#) may cause a failure when the [MERGE](#) table is accessed. The conformance checks applied to each table are:

- The underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table must have the same number of columns.
- The column order in the underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table must match.
- Additionally, the specification for each corresponding column in the parent [MERGE](#) table and the underlying tables are compared and must satisfy these checks:
 - The column type in the underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table must be equal.
 - The column length in the underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table must be equal.
 - The column of the underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table can be [NULL](#).
- The underlying table must have at least as many indexes as the [MERGE](#) table. The underlying table may have more indexes than the [MERGE](#) table, but cannot have fewer.



Note

A known issue exists where indexes on the same columns must be in identical order, in both the [MERGE](#) table and the underlying [MyISAM](#) table. See Bug #33653.

Each index must satisfy these checks:

- The index type of the underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table must be the same.
- The number of index parts (that is, multiple columns within a compound index) in the index definition for the underlying table and the [MERGE](#) table must be the same.
- For each index part: