

# Speedbar / Sr-Speedbar

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
<b>Speedbar Frame and SR-Speedbar</b>  See also: • <a href="#">iMenu/Speedbar support</a> • <a href="#">Speedbar/iMenu Mode Compatibility</a> • <a href="#">Menus</a>		The Speedbar provides a vertical strip menu window that can list the following information in a collapsible tree format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Files of interest in a directory<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• items inside each of these files detected by either the <a href="#">imenu</a> or etags systems: type, variable, function definitions.</li><li>• Opened buffers with the same items inside each of them.</li></ul></li><li>• Emacs has built-in support for <a href="#">Speedbar</a>.</li><li>• Speedbar uses a different frame. Easily seen in graphics mode, but also available when Emacs is used in terminal mode. However since Emacs running in Terminal shows only one frame at a time and you must use an Emacs frame command to see it, its usefulness is reduced.</li><li>•  The <a href="#">Sr-Speedbar</a> external package provides better support for Emacs running in terminal mode as it is able to use a dedicated window of the same Emacs frame. It can also be used when Emacs is running in graphics mode. PEL manages the installation of SR-Speedbar and uses a version of <a href="#">SR-Speedbar</a> available on GitHub. PEL also provides extended functionality for it.</li><li>•  The <a href="#">projectile-speedbar</a> external package extends both Speedbar and SR-Speedbar by showing more than just the relevant files of the current directory: it allows navigating across all directories inside the project as seen by projectile. Since a <a href="#">DVCS</a> repository is understood by projectile as being a collection of directories/files in a project, it provides a broader view.</li></ul>	
		PEL provides the following user-options to activate these packages (and, in the case of the external packages, to control their installation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>pel-use-speedbar</b> : Set it to t to activate the use of <a href="#">Speedbar</a> and <a href="#">Sr-Speedbar</a></li><li>• <b>pel-prefer-sr-speedbar-in-terminal</b> : t by default, forcing the use of <a href="#">Sr-Speedbar</a> in terminal mode. Set it to nil to use <a href="#">Speedbar</a> in terminal mode.</li><li>• <b>pel-use-projectile-speedbar</b> : Set it to t to activate <a href="#">projectile-speedbar</a></li></ul> In PEL, <b>M-x customize-group pel-pkg-for-speedbar</b> to open the custom group to activate one or several of the following user option. Save the settings in a file and restart Emacs. Once this is done you can use <b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s &lt;f2&gt;</b> to access it.	
		<b>Speedbar availability and item extraction control:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speedbar support for a file is controlled by the <a href="#">speedbar-supported-extension-expressions</a> user-option.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PEL dynamically adds file extensions with the <a href="#">pel-add-speedbar-extension</a> function.</li></ul></li><li>• The information shown is determined by the <a href="#">imenu</a> or etags support for each of the file extension associated major-modes.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is possible to add support for more major modes and to enhance the information shown by adding more support for imenu or etags.</li><li>• PEL does that for some of the modes that do not properly support Speedbar.</li></ul></li></ul>	
		See major mode compatibility information is available in the <a href="#">Speedbar/iMenu Mode Compatibility</a> table.	
		Several settings are available for each of these 3 packages. Once <b>pel-use-speedbar</b> is turned on, use <b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s &lt;f3&gt;</b> to access their customization pages. Be aware of the following important settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speedbar:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>speedbar-tag-hierarchy-method</b>: controls the way the entries are listed in the speedbar.</li><li>• They can be abbreviated, common prefixed, sorted, or just listed. More methods can be added via hooks. Each hook can be activated or unused.</li><li>• The icons used in the graphics mode look ancient. Replaced them with ASCII text by customizing <a href="#">speedbar-use-images</a> user-option to off (nil).</li></ul></li><li>• SR-Speedbar:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>sr-speedbar-right-side</b>: turn it off if you want that SR-Speedbar to show on the left-hand side instead of the default right-hand side.</li></ul></li></ul>	
Last updated on:	2025-11-25		
Open this PDF file. See also: <a href="#">Help/Info</a>	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s &lt;f1&gt;</b>	( <b>pel-help-pdf</b> &optional OPEN-WEB-PAGE)	Open the <a href="#">Speedbar</a> local PDF. If the prefix argument (like <b>C-u</b> or <b>M--</b> ) is used, then it opens the remote GitHub hosted raw PDF instead. If the <a href="#">pel-flip-help-pdf-arg</a> user-option is set it's the other way around.
<a href="#">Customize PEL Speedbar control</a>	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s &lt;f2&gt;</b>	( <b>pel-customize-pel</b> &optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Customize PEL Speedbar support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If OTHER-WINDOW is non-nil (use <b>C-u</b>), display in other window.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Customize Emacs Speedbar control</a>	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s &lt;f3&gt;</b>	( <b>pel-customize-library</b> &optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Customize Emacs support of one of 1) Speedbar, 2) SR-SPEEDBAR or 3) /Projectile Speedbar. Note that the Speedbar customization group has the following sub-groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speedbar Faces : faces used in speedbar</li><li>• Speedbar Vc : version control display in speedbar</li><li>• Sr Speedbar (which can also be accessed by selecting option 2).</li></ul>
Open/close a speedbar	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-s</b>	( <b>pel-open-close-speedbar</b> )	Use/close appropriate speedbar: <a href="#">Speedbar</a> or <a href="#">SR-Speedbar</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In text mode always use the SR-Speedbar which opens inside the same frame.</li><li>• In graphics mode, both are supported, but only one type can be used in an Emacs session.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prompt to ask which one to use on the very first call and keep using that one in the subsequent calls.</li></ul></li></ul>
Show Speedbar control variables	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s ?</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-info</b> )	Display Speedbar control variables inside a *speedbar-dbg* buffer. You may also want to use <b>&lt;f11&gt; ? e i</b> to display the imenu control variables.
Speedbar/SR-Speedbar	<b>Global Operations:</b> The following commands support both Speedbar and sr-speedbar.		
Change frame focus to or from the speedbar frame/window.	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-t</b>	( <b>pel-toggle-to-speedbar</b> )	Select/unselect Speedbar window. Move point to speedbar frame or sr-speedbar window or back. If no speedbar is active open it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•  Window toggling is only allowed when the SR-Speedbar is used, not for Speedbar.</li></ul>
Refresh the current speedbar display, disposing of any cached data.	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-r</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-refresh</b> )	Force refresh of speedbar content.
Toggle refresh speedbar content.	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-R</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-toggle-refresh</b> )	Toggle automatic refresh of used Speedbar.
Toggle display of files speedbar can not tag and hidden files. (In File mode)	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-a</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-toggle-show-all-files</b> )	Toggles display of the level 1 hidden files : files that have no tag expansion method. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warns if the speed-bar is currently not opened.</li><li>• When shown level-1 hidden files per shown after the <b>[?]</b> line prefix.</li></ul> Speedbar's default behaviour depends on the value of the <a href="#">speedbar-show-unknown-files</a> user option.
Toggle tag sorting	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-o</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-toggle-sorting</b> )	Toggle tag sorting. Use when Speedbar window is opened.  Speedbar content is not updated automatically: after executing the command you must contract and re-expand them to see the change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•  If the <a href="#">speedbar-tag-hierarchy-method</a> user-option includes the <a href="#">speedbar-trim-words-tag-hierarchy</a> function sorting will have no effect. To see an impact, modify this speedbar user-option and remove that function.</li><li>• With PEL you can access the speedbar customize buffer with <b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s &lt;f3&gt;</b> key sequence.</li></ul>
Toggle use of images	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-i</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-toggle-images</b> )	Toggle use of images in the speedbar frame. Available in graphics mode only. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warns if the speed-bar is currently not opened.</li></ul>
Toggle SR-Speedbar select behaviour	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-b</b>	( <b>pel-sr-speedbar-toggle-select-behaviour</b> )	Toggle SR-Speedbar selection behaviour from what is selected by the <a href="#">pel-sr-speedbar-move-point-to-target-on-select</a> PEL user-option.  The behaviours are: 1- Move point to the target window selected by the SR-Speedbar operation. 2- The selected target is visited inside another window but keep point inside the SR-Speedbar buffer after a new selection. SR-Speedbar alone always uses the second behaviour. PEL user-option defaults to behaviour 1.
Focus Speedbar on the content of file or buffer in current window  See also: <a href="#">Navigation</a>	<b>&lt;f11&gt; M-s M-f</b>	( <b>pel-speedbar-focus-current-file</b> &optional STAY-IN-SPEEDBAR)	Set SR-Speedbar focus to the content of the buffer/file in the current window. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place the its tag list at the top of the speedbar and expand all first and second level items.</li><li>• With key-prefix, move point to speedbar, otherwise don't move it.</li></ul> Current implementation only supports SR-Speedbar.  Useful to quickly get an overview of a file's content. When the tags are not sorted that also shows the layout of the file. You can then move to the speedbar to select the item to move, or if point is in the file window you can use the <b>M-g h</b> key sequence, type a portion of the symbol to jump to it.
Expand Speedbar to the entire projectile project directories and files  See also: <a href="#">Projectile</a>	<b>&lt;f8&gt; M-s</b>	( <b>projectile-speedbar-open-current-buffer-in-tree</b> )	With a speedbar already opened, expand it to the entire current projectile project directories and files.  Requires the <a href="#">projectile-speedbar</a> external project.  PEL activates it when the <a href="#">pel-use-projectile-speedbar</a> user-option is set to t. To use this command you must first activate projectile.  The command fails if issued when point lies inside the speedbar window.

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
<b>Speedbar/SR-Speedbar</b>	<b>Indicators:</b> line prefixes and file suffixes shown inside the Speedbar and SR-Speedbar buffer window and their meaning.		
<b>Line prefix</b>	[+] or <+> [-] [?] {+}	: Expand the content of the item: 1) for directory: the list of files, or 2) for a file: the list of items/tags in the file. : Contract the item; hide its content. : Indicates a file that supports no tag expansion mechanism. These correspond to level-1 hidden files. : Use <f11> M-s M-a to toggle the inclusion of these files in the Speedbar file list. : Expand the group of tags.	
<b>File suffixes</b>  File names displayed in the Files view have appended single letter suffixes.	*	: File checked out of VCS — was written for RCS, not reliable for modern DVCS.	
	? # ! %	: File does not have imenu support but not expressly ignored.  Files that match 'speedbar-file-unshown-regexp' are fully ignored. : File that have an object file associated with it. : File that have an object file associated with it, and that object file is out of date. : Buffer is read-only.	
<b>Speedbar/SR-Speedbar</b>	<b>View Modes:</b> The Speedbar can operate in various modes. Several modes are built-in and other can be implemented. The built-in modes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Directory/File View</b> : used by default, that shows a list of directory and files.</li><li>• <b>Quick Buffer View</b>: shows a list of currently opened buffers. When selecting a buffer, point moves to the buffer window.</li><li>• <b>Buffer View</b>: shows a list of currently opened buffers. When selecting a buffer, buffer is opened in a window but point stays in Speedbar window.</li><li>• <b>Info View</b>: used for buffer in info-mode: displays the list of info nodes.</li><li>• <b>GDB View</b>: shows the current stack to the *gdb* buffer.</li><li>• <b>RMAIL View</b>: used when using RMAIL. Displays 2 sections: a reply button and the list of all RMAIL folders.</li></ul>		
<b>Keys to select Speedbar View mode</b>	Use the following keys to switch the Speedbar buffer view: <b>b</b> : Select Quick Buffer View. Once in Quick Buffer View mode, type <b>b</b> again to select the Buffer View mode. The Speedbar Quick Buffer View is very useful to show the complete name of customization buffer and visit it. <b>f</b> : Select the Directory/Files View. <b>r</b> : revert to previous expansion (Speedbar only - does not seem to work in SR-Speedbar)		
<b>Keys available in all views</b>	The following keys are available in all Speedbar View modes		
Move to next line	<b>n</b>	(speedbar-next ARG)	Move to the next ARGth line in a speedbar buffer. By default, move to next line.
Move to previous line	<b>p</b>	(speedbar-prev ARG)	Move to the previous ARGth line in a speedbar buffer. By default move to previous line.
Move to next line in current sub-node	<b>M-n</b>	(speedbar-restricted-next ARG)	Move to the next ARGth line in a speedbar buffer at the same depth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This means that movement is restricted to a subnode, and that siblings of intermediate nodes are skipped.</li></ul>
Move to previousline in current sub-node	<b>M-p</b>	(speedbar-restricted-prev ARG)	Move to the previous ARGth line in a speedbar buffer at the same depth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This means that movement is restricted to a subnode, and that siblings of intermediate nodes are skipped.</li></ul>
Move forward over the complete list	<b>C-M-n</b>	(speedbar-forward-list)	Move forward over the current list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A LIST in speedbar is a group of similarly typed items, such as directories, files, or the directory button.</li></ul>
Move backward over the complete list	<b>C-M-p</b>	(speedbar-backward-list)	Move backward over the current list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A LIST in speedbar is a group of similarly typed items, such as directories, files, or the directory button.</li></ul>
Edit current item	• <b>e</b> • <b>RET</b>	(speedbar-edit-line)	Edit whatever tag or file is on the current speedbar line: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Directory</b>: open content of directory identified by point position. Replace speedbar buffer with the content of that directory.</li><li>• <b>File</b>: open file in a (new) buffer.</li><li>• <b>Tag</b>: move to the file/location identified by the tag.</li></ul>
Contract/expand item	<b>SPC</b>	(speedbar-toggle-line-expansion)	Contract or expand the line under the cursor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Directory: expand/contract directory tree in place.</li><li>2) File: expand/contract tags list if any.</li></ul>
Expand current line	• <b>+</b> • <b>=</b>	(speedbar-expand-line &optional ARG)	Expand the line under the cursor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Directory: expand directory tree in place.</li><li>2) File: expand tags list if any.</li><li>• With universal argument ARG, flush cached data.</li><li>• In <b>Info View</b> mode the <b>+</b> key can be used to expand a <b>[+]</b> node, but not the <b>=</b> key.</li></ul>
Expand descendants	<b>[</b>	(speedbar-expand-line-descendants &optional ARG)	Expand the line under the cursor and all descendants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optional argument ARG indicates that any cache should be flushed.</li><li>•  If there's a lot of descendants that may take some time.</li></ul>
Contract descendants	<b>]</b>	(speedbar-contract-line-descendants)	Expand the line under the cursor and all descendants
Refresh speedbar	<b>g</b>	(speedbar-refresh &optional ARG)	Refresh the current speedbar display, disposing of any cached data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Argument ARG represents to force a refresh past any caches that may exist.</li><li>• Removes current file focus if there was one set by &lt;f8&gt; M-s</li></ul>
Toggle automatic update of the speedbar frame	<b>t</b>	(speedbar-toggle-updates)	Toggle automatic update for the speedbar frame. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With automatic update on, Speedbar tracks the content of the associated buffer. Otherwise it does not.  This does not seem to work with SR-Speedbar: I have not been able to stop the automatic refresh. </li></ul>
Close Speedbar frame	<b>q</b>	(dframe-close-frame)	Close the current frame if it is dedicated. Quit speedbar and hide the frame. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's faster to restore the speedbar than if you kill the frame with <b>Q</b>.</li></ul>
Kill Speedbar frame	<b>Q</b>	(delete-frame &optional FRAME FORCE)	Quit speedbar and kill the frame.
<b>File View Keys</b>	The following rows describe the keys available in the Speedbar File view.		
Display parent directory	<b>U</b>	(speedbar-up-directory)	Display parent directory of current line's directory.
Display info on current item	<b>I</b>	(speedbar-item-info)	Display info in the minibuffer about the current item. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For files and directories, the information corresponds to the output of 'ls -l' for the file/directory.</li></ul>
Copy File	<b>C</b>	(speedbar-item-copy)	Copy the item under the cursor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Files can be copied to new names or places.</li></ul>
Create new Directory	<b>M</b>	(speedbar-create-directory)	Create a directory in speedbar.
Rename file/directory	<b>R</b>	(speedbar-item-rename)	Rename the item under the cursor or mouse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Files can be renamed to new names or moved to new directories.</li></ul>
Delete current file	<b>D</b>	(speedbar-item-delete)	Delete the item under the cursor. Files are removed from disk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prompts for confirmation.</li></ul>
Delete objet file associated with current file	<b>O</b>	(speedbar-item-object-delete)	Delete the object associated from the item under the cursor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The file is removed from disk. The object is determined from the variable 'speedbar-obj-alist'.</li></ul>
Byte compile file	<b>B</b>	(speedbar-item-byte-compile)	Byte compile the current item if it is a Lisp file. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A message in the minibuffer shows the compiled file if the compilation succeeded. If the compilation failed, a *compile-log* buffer is opened with the errors.</li></ul>
Load current Lisp file	<b>L</b>	(speedbar-item-load)	Load the current item if it is a Lisp file.

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
<a href="#">Buffer View Keys</a>		The keys available in the Quick Buffer and Buffer view. • In Quick Buffer view the keys move point to the selected buffer. In Buffer view it only opens the buffer but leaves point inside the Speedbar.	
Kill buffer item	<b>k</b>	(speedbar-buffer-kill-buffer)	Kill the buffer the cursor is on in the speedbar buffer.
Revert buffer item	<b>r</b>	(speedbar-buffer-revert-buffer)	Revert the buffer the cursor is on in the speedbar buffer.
<a href="#">Org Mode support</a>			
<a href="#">Org-Mode Directory/File/Tags Keys</a>	<	: Org-mode: Restrict future agenda commands to the location at point in the speedbar. To get rid of the restrictions, use '>'. (org-speedbar-set-agenda-restriction)	
	>	: Org-Mode: Remove the agenda restriction. (org-agenda-remove-restriction-lock)	

## Speedbar – References

Topic & link	Description
<a href="#">Speedbar</a>	
<a href="#">Speedbar Emacs Manual</a>	Describes Speedbar, how to navigate with it, modes, etc...
<a href="#">Speedbar Frames @ Emacs Manual</a>	Describes the Speedbar frame (just 1 page of text) inside the Emacs manual. Refers to the document above for more information.
<a href="#">speedbar.el @ GitHub</a>	Mirror of the latest official version of speedbar.el
<a href="#">Speedbar homepage @ CEDET</a>	Speedbar originates from the CEDET effort. This is the CEDET speedbar page.
<a href="#">SR-Speedbar</a>	
<a href="#">sr-speedbar @ EmacsWiki</a>	Description of SR-Speedbar
<a href="#">sr-speedbar.el</a>	SR-Speedbar source code
<a href="#">sr-speedbar @ MELPA</a>	MELPA page for sr-speedbar
<a href="#">Projectile-Speedbar</a>	
<a href="#">projectile-speedbar @ GitHub</a>	projectile-speedbar source code.
<a href="#">Comparison between Speedbar and SR-Speedbar</a>	
<a href="#">Activating Speedbar from the 'Options-&gt;Show/Hide' submenu</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speedbar in graphics mode: </li> <li>Speedbar in text mode: ! The speedbar frames open, but is not immediately visible in terminal mode. Use <code>M-x speedbar-in-focus</code> to make it visible. Note that when using PEL, SR-Speedbar is normally used and that is not invoked by the menu.</li> </ul>
See also: <a href="#">Frames</a>	