



Dired — Directory Editor

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
<u>Dired</u>	Dired is Emacs directory editor. You can open a Dired buffer by visiting a directory instead of a file. With it you can operate on the files of the directory and its sub-directories.		
Entering Dired Mode	The following commands can be used to list files in a directory a=in a buffer that operates in Dired Mode.		
Open a directory editor (See also: ∑ File mngt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• C-x d• ⌘-D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (dired DIRNAME &optional SWITCHES)-----• (ido-dired)	Opens a Dired-mode buffer on the specified directory. Prompt for the directory name.  The PEL package use IDO when the pel-use-ido-mode customize variable is set to t and then the keys are bound to the (ido-dired) command.
Open (visit) a file/directory (See also: ∑ File mngt)	C-x C-f	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (find-file FILENAME &optional WILDCARDS)-----• (ido-find-file)	Prompt for the file or directory name to open. Open the selected file/directory in a buffer with the appropriate mode. For directory, the buffer opens in Dired-mode. This can be replaced by the ido-mode by the ido-find-file: it provides suggestions. When ido mode is used, you can also: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type C-x f to change to original find-file• Type C-j to accept the file/directory name verbatim without replacement or suggestion. Note: it is also possible to change the read-only state of a buffer with C-x C-q . So you can open a file with C-x C-f and then change the buffer to read-only mode.  The PEL package use IDO when the pel-use-ido-mode customize variable is set to t and then the keys are bound to the (ido-dired) command.
Dired Mode commands	A buffer in Dired Mode provides a large set of specialized single key commands. There's also a set of secondary/extended Dired Modes that can be activated via some of these commands. As an example on what can be done, the following describes the keys to use to show only the files that have a specific file extension: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark all .el files: %f \.el\$ RET• Toggle the marking to mark all other files: t• Kill the lines that are now marked: k Then if you want to re-display all files, refresh with: g		
Mark file for deletion	d	(dired-flag-file-deletion ARG &optional INTERACTIVE)	Flag a file 'D' for deletion.
Mark file for later command	m	(dired-mark ARG &optional INTERACTIVE)	Mark a file or subdirectory for later command
Unmark file	u	(dired-unmark ARG &optional INTERACTIVE)	Unmark a file or all files of inserted subdirectory
Unmark file and move up		(dired-unmark-backward ARG)	Back up one line and unmark or unflag.
Toggle al marks	t	(dired-toggle-marks)	Toggle marks: marked files become unmarked, and vice versa. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Files marked with other flags (such as 'D') are not affected.• '.' and '..' are never toggled.• As always, hidden subdirs are not affected.
Delete files marked for deletion	x	(dired-do-flagged-delete &optional NOMESSAGE)	Delete (eXpunge) the files flagged 'D'.
Kill all marked lines (not files)	k	(dired-do-kill-lines &optional ARG FMT)	Kill all marked lines (not the files). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With a prefix argument, kill that many lines starting with the current line.• (A negative argument kills backward.)• If you use this command with a prefix argument to kill the line for a file that is a directory, which you have inserted in the Dired buffer as a subdirectory, then it deletes that subdirectory from the buffer as well.• To kill an entire subdirectory (without killing its line in the parent directory), go to its directory header line and use this command with a prefix argument (the value does not matter).
Visit file/directory on line	<RET>	(dired-find-file)	Visit current line's file or directory. For directory create new Dired buffer.
Visit parent directory	^	(dired-up-directory &optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Up one directory level (creates a new buffer)
Visit file/directory on line in current buffer	a	(dired-find-alternate-file)	Access current line's file or directory. Kill old Dired buffer.
Visit file/directory in another window	o	(dired-find-file-other-window)	Visit current line's file or directory inside other window.
Dired-subtree	i	(dired-maybe-insert-subdir DIRNAME &optional SWITCHES NO-ERROR-IF-NOT-DIR-P)	Insert a subdirectory listing in this buffer. Use on subdirectory line.
Rename file/move file into other directory	R	(dired-do-rename &optional ARG)	Rename a file or move the marked files to another directory.
Copy file/directory	C	(dired-do-copy &optional ARG)	Copy all marked (or next ARG) files, or copy the current file. When operating on just the current file, prompt for the new name.
Toggle lines	s	(dired-sort-toggle-or-edit &optional ARG)	Toggle sorting by date, and refresh the Dired buffer. With a prefix argument, edit the current listing switches instead.
Refresh	g	(revert-buffer &optional IGNORE-AUTO NOCONFIRM PRESERVE-MODES)	Refresh: read directory again.
	l	(dired-do-redisplay &optional ARG TEST-FOR-SUBDIR)	Relist the file at point or the marked files, or a subdirectory. Redisplay all marked (or next ARG) files. If on a subdir line, redisplay that subdirectory. In that case, a prefix arg lets you edit the 'ls' switches used for the new listing.
Move down one line	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SPC• n• C-n	(dired-next-line ARG)	Down one line
Move up one line	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S-SPC• p• C-p	(dired-previous-line ARG)	Up one line
Create directory	+	(dired-create-directory DIRECTORY)	Create a new directory. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent directories of DIRECTORY are created as needed.• If DIRECTORY already exists, signal an error.
Byte compile marked Emacs Lisp files	B	(dired-do-byte-compile &optional ARG)	Byte compile marked (or next ARG) Emacs Lisp files.

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
Narrow the file list to specific fuzzy filter	<f12> f	(dired-narrow-fuzzy)	<p>Narrow a dired buffer to the files matching a fuzzy string.</p> <p>A fuzzy string is constructed from the filter string by inserting " *" between each letter. This is then matched as regular expression against the file name.</p> <p>📦 This requires the external dired-narrow package.</p> <p>🔧 This PEL binding is only available when the <i>pel-use-dired-narrow</i> customization variable is t.</p>

References

Description & link	Notes
Dired @ wikipedia	An overview.
Dired in Emacs Manual	Dired table of Content in the emacs manual.
Mike Sperber's dired page	Page of Dired current maintainer
Emacs: techniques to narrow Dired - Youtube video	A quick video on how to use straight dired-mode to list a sub-set of all files. It also describes the dired-narrow package though.