# Using Git Sparse Checkout

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There are times when all I want or need from a Git repo are a handful files. For example, I use the awesome git-completion and git-prompt scripts included in the Git project. Thus, I don’t need the entire Git repo taking up space.

This is exactly what [sparse checkouts](http://schacon.github.io/git/git-read-tree.html) enable.

Here are the steps to create a “sparse” Git local repository that only includes the “Completion” scripts.

#### Step 1: Create a directory.

I named mine git-completion. You can name the directory whatever you want.

mkdir git-completion

cd git-completion

#### Step 2: Initialize a Git repository

git init

#### Step 3: Enable Sparse Checkouts

git config core.sparsecheckout true

#### Step 4: Tell Git which directories you want

echo contrib/completion/ >> .git/info/sparse-checkout

Or you can modify the .git/info/sparse-checkout file directly. Either way is fine.

#### Step 5: Add the remote

git remote add -f origin https://github.com/git/git.git

#### Final Step: Fetch the files

git pull origin master

You should now have the contrib/completion directory. No other Git source files exist in your local copy.

### Sourcing the files

Update your .bashrc file.

source ~/Development/git-completion/contrib/completion/git-completion.bash

source ~/Development/git-completion/contrib/completion/git-prompt.sh

<https://briancoyner.github.io/2013/06/05/git-sparse-checkout.html>

**My Example:**

git init

git remote add origin <https://github.com/temmyg/spring-mvc-lab.git>

echo ground >> .git/info/sparse-checkout

git config core.sparsecheckout true

git fetch

git checkout master(this is a remote branch name)

*or*

git pull origin master