

# dd(1) — Linux manual page

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[Search online pages](#)

**DD(1)**

User Commands

**DD(1)**

## NAME

[top](#)

dd - convert and copy a file

## SYNOPSIS

[top](#)

**dd** [*OPERAND*]...  
**dd** *OPTION*

## DESCRIPTION

[top](#)

Copy a file, converting and formatting according to the operands.

**bs=BYTES**

read and write up to BYTES bytes at a time (default: 512);  
overrides ibs and obs

**cbs=BYTES**

convert BYTES bytes at a time

**conv=CONVS**

convert the file as per the comma separated symbol list

**count=N**

copy only N input blocks

**ibs=BYTES**

read up to BYTES bytes at a time (default: 512)

**if=FILE**

read from FILE instead of stdin

**iflag=FLAGS**

read as per the comma separated symbol list

```
obs=BYTES
        write BYTES bytes at a time (default: 512)

of=FILE
        write to FILE instead of stdout

oflag=FLAGS
        write as per the comma separated symbol list

seek=N skip N obs-sized blocks at start of output

skip=N skip N ibs-sized blocks at start of input

status=LEVEL
        The LEVEL of information to print to stderr; 'none'
        suppresses everything but error messages, 'noxfer'
        suppresses the final transfer statistics, 'progress' shows
        periodic transfer statistics
```

N and BYTES may be followed by the following multiplicative suffixes: c=1, w=2, b=512, kB=1000, K=1024, MB=1000\*1000, M=1024\*1024, xM=M, GB=1000\*1000\*1000, G=1024\*1024\*1024, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y. Binary prefixes can be used, too: KiB=K, MiB=M, and so on.

Each CONV symbol may be:

```
ascii    from EBCDIC to ASCII

ebcdic   from ASCII to EBCDIC

ibm      from ASCII to alternate EBCDIC

block    pad newline-terminated records with spaces to cbs-size

unblock  replace trailing spaces in cbs-size records with newline

lcase    change upper case to lower case

ucase    change lower case to upper case

sparse   try to seek rather than write all-NUL output blocks

swab     swap every pair of input bytes

sync     pad every input block with NULs to ibs-size; when used
        with block or unblock, pad with spaces rather than NULs

excl    fail if the output file already exists
```

**nocreat**  
do not create the output file

**notrunc**  
do not truncate the output file

**noerror**  
continue after read errors

**fdatasync**  
physically write output file data before finishing

**fsync** likewise, but also write metadata

Each FLAG symbol may be:

**append** append mode (makes sense only for output; conv=notrunc suggested)

**direct** use direct I/O for data

**directory**  
fail unless a directory

**dsync** use synchronized I/O for data

**sync** likewise, but also for metadata

**fullblock**  
accumulate full blocks of input (iflag only)

**nonblock**  
use non-blocking I/O

**noatime**  
do not update access time

**nocache**  
Request to drop cache. See also oflag=sync

**noctty** do not assign controlling terminal from file

**nofollow**  
do not follow symlinks

**count\_bytes**  
treat 'count=N' as a byte count (iflag only)

**skip\_bytes**  
treat 'skip=N' as a byte count (iflag only)

**seek\_bytes**

treat 'seek=N' as a byte count (oflag only)

Sending a USR1 signal to a running 'dd' process makes it print I/O statistics to standard error and then resume copying.

Options are:

--help display this help and exit

--version

output version information and exit

## AUTHOR

[top](#)

Written by Paul Rubin, David MacKenzie, and Stuart Kemp.

## REPORTING BUGS

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GNU coreutils online help:

<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>

Report any translation bugs to

<https://translationproject.org/team/>

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[top](#)

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## SEE ALSO

[top](#)

Full documentation <https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/dd>  
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) dd invocation'

## COLOPHON

[top](#)

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**DD(1)**

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