NAME

tar – manual page for tar 1.26

SYNOPSIS

tar [*OPTION*...] [*FILE*]...

DESCRIPTION

GNU 'tar' saves many files together into a single tape or disk archive, and can restore individual files from the archive.

Note that this manual page contains just very brief description (or more like a list of possible functionality) originally generated by the **help2man** utility. The full documentation for **tar** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **tar** programs are properly installed at your site, the command **'info tar'** should give you access to the complete manual.

EXAMPLES

tar **−cf** archive.tar foo bar
> # Create archive.tar from files foo and bar.

tar **−tvf** archive.tar
> # List all files in archive.tar verbosely.

tar **−xf** archive.tar
> # Extract all files from archive.tar.

DEFAULTS

This tar installation defaults to:

−−format=*gnu* **−f−** **−b20** **−−quoting−style**=*escape* **−−rmt−command**=/sbin/rmt **−−rsh−command**=/usr/bin/rsh

Main operation mode:

−A, **−−catenate**, **−−concatenate**
> append tar files to an archive

−c, **−−create**
> create a new archive

−d, **−−diff**, **−−compare**
> find differences between archive and file system

−−delete
> delete from the archive (not on mag tapes!)

−r, **−−append**
> append files to the end of an archive

−t, **−−list**
> list the contents of an archive

−−test−label
> test the archive volume label and exit

−u, **−−update**
> only append files newer than copy in archive

−x, **−−extract**, **−−get**
> extract files from an archive

Common options:

-C, **--directory=DIR**
> change to directory DIR

-f, **--file=ARCHIVE**
> use archive file or device ARCHIVE

-j, **--bzip2**
> filter the archive through bzip2

 -J, **--xz**
> filter the archive through xz

-p, **--preserve-permissions**
> extract information about file permissions (default for superuser)

-v, **--verbose**
> verbosely list files processed

-z, **--gzip**
> filter the archive through gzip

Operation modifiers:

−−check−device
> check device numbers when creating incremental archives (default)

−g, **−−listed−incremental**=*FILE*
> handle new GNU−format incremental backup

−G, **−−incremental**
> handle old GNU−format incremental backup

−−ignore−failed−read
> do not exit with nonzero on unreadable files

−−level=*NUMBER*
> dump level for created listed−incremental archive

−n, **−−seek**
> archive is seekable

−−no−check−device
> do not check device numbers when creating incremental archives

−−no−seek
> archive is not seekable

−−occurrence[=*NUMBER*]
> process only the NUMBERth occurrence of each file in the archive; this option is valid only in
> conjunction with one of the subcommands **−−delete**, **−−diff**, **−−extract** or **−−list** and when a list
> of files is given either on the command line or via the **−T** option; NUMBER defaults to 1

−−sparse−version=*MAJOR[*.MINOR]
> set version of the sparse format to use (implies **−−sparse**)

−S, **−−sparse**
> handle sparse files efficiently

Overwrite control:

−k, **−−keep−old−files**
> don't replace existing files when extracting, treat them as errors

−−keep−newer−files
> don't replace existing files that are newer than their archive copies

−−no−overwrite−dir
> preserve metadata of existing directories

−−overwrite
          overwrite existing files when extracting

−−overwrite−dir
          overwrite metadata of existing directories when extracting (default)

−−recursive−unlink
          empty hierarchies prior to extracting directory

−−remove−files
          remove files after adding them to the archive

−−skip−old−files
          don't replace existing files when extracting, silently skip over them

−U, **−−unlink−first**
          remove each file prior to extracting over it

−W, **−−verify**
          attempt to verify the archive after writing it

Select output stream:

−−ignore−command−error ignore exit codes of children

−−no−ignore−command−error
          treat non−zero exit codes of children as error

−O, **−−to−stdout**
          extract files to standard output

−−to−command=*COMMAND*
          pipe extracted files to another program

Handling of file attributes:

−−atime−preserve[=*METHOD*]
          preserve access times on dumped files, either by restoring the times after reading
          (METHOD='replace'; default) or by not setting the times in the first place (METHOD='system')

−−delay−directory−restore
          delay setting modification times and permissions of extracted directories until the end of extraction

−−group=*NAME*
          force NAME as group for added files

−−mode=*CHANGES*
          force (symbolic) mode CHANGES for added files

−−mtime=*DATE−OR−FILE*
          set mtime for added files from DATE−OR−FILE

−m, **−−touch**
          don't extract file modified time

−−no−delay−directory−restore
          cancel the effect of **−−delay−directory−restore** option

−−no−same−owner
          extract files as yourself (default for ordinary users)

−−no−same−permissions
          apply the user's umask when extracting permissions from the archive (default for ordinary users)

−−numeric−owner
          always use numbers for user/group names

      −−owner=*NAME*
          force NAME as owner for added files

      −p, **−−preserve−permissions**, **−−same−permissions**
          extract information about file permissions (default for superuser)

      −−preserve
          same as both **−p** and **−s**

      −−same−owner
          try extracting files with the same ownership as exists in the archive (default for superuser)

      −s, **−−preserve−order**, **−−same−order**
          sort names to extract to match archive

Handling of extended file attributes:

      −−acls   Enable the POSIX ACLs support

      −−no−acls
          Disable the POSIX ACLs support

      −−no−selinux
          Disable the SELinux context support

      −−no−xattrs
          Disable extended attributes support

      −−selinux
          Enable the SELinux context support

      −−xattrs
          Enable extended attributes support

      −−xattrs−exclude=*MASK*
          specify the exclude pattern for xattr keys

      −−xattrs−include=*MASK*
          specify the include pattern for xattr keys

Device selection and switching:

      −f, **−−file**=*ARCHIVE*
          use archive file or device ARCHIVE

      −−force−local
          archive file is local even if it has a colon

      −F, **−−info−script**=*NAME*, **−−new−volume−script**=*NAME*
          run script at end of each tape (implies **−M**)

      −L, **−−tape−length**=*NUMBER*
          change tape after writing NUMBER x 1024 bytes

      −M, **−−multi−volume**
          create/list/extract multi−volume archive

      −−rmt−command=*COMMAND*
          use given rmt COMMAND instead of rmt

      −−rsh−command=*COMMAND*
          use remote COMMAND instead of rsh

      −−volno−file=*FILE*
          use/update the volume number in FILE

Device blocking:

       −b, **−−blocking−factor**=*BLOCKS*
            BLOCKS x 512 bytes per record

       −B, **−−read−full−records**
            reblock as we read (for 4.2BSD pipes)

       −i, **−−ignore−zeros**
            ignore zeroed blocks in archive (means EOF)

       −−record−size=*NUMBER*
            NUMBER of bytes per record, multiple of 512

Archive format selection:

       −H, **−−format**=*FORMAT*
            create archive of the given format

            FORMAT is one of the following:

                  gnu   GNU tar 1.13.x format

                  oldgnu   GNU format as per tar <= 1.12

                  pax   POSIX 1003.1−2001 (pax) format

                  posix   same as pax

                  ustar   POSIX 1003.1−1988 (ustar) format

                  v7   old V7 tar format

       −−old−archive, **−−portability**
            same as **−−format**=*v7*

       −−pax−option=*keyword[[*:]=value][,keyword[[:]=value]]...
            control pax keywords

       −−posix
            same as **−−format**=*posix*

       −V, **−−label**=*TEXT*
            create archive with volume name TEXT; at list/extract time, use TEXT as a globbing pattern for
            volume name

Compression options:

       −a, **−−auto−compress**
            use archive suffix to determine the compression program

       −I, **−−use−compress−program**=*PROG*
            filter through PROG (must accept **−d**)

       −j, **−−bzip2**
            filter the archive through bzip2

       −J, **−−xz**
            filter the archive through xz

       −−lzip   filter the archive through lzip

       −−lzma
            filter the archive through lzma

       −−lzop

       −−no−auto−compress
            do not use archive suffix to determine the compression program

−z, **−−gzip**, **−−gunzip**, **−−ungzip**
> filter the archive through gzip

−Z, **−−compress**, **−−uncompress**
> filter the archive through compress

Note: You might need to install external program (lzip/ncompress/lzma...) to use some of these compression options

Local file selection:

−−add−file=*FILE*
> add given FILE to the archive (useful if its name starts with a dash)

−−backup[=*CONTROL*]
> backup before removal, choose version CONTROL

−C, **−−directory**=*DIR*
> change to directory DIR

−−exclude=*PATTERN*
> exclude files, given as a PATTERN

−−exclude−backups
> exclude backup and lock files

−−exclude−caches
> exclude contents of directories containing CACHEDIR.TAG, except for the tag file itself

−−exclude−caches−all
> exclude directories containing CACHEDIR.TAG

−−exclude−caches−under exclude everything under directories containing
> CACHEDIR.TAG

−−exclude−tag=*FILE*
> exclude contents of directories containing FILE, except for FILE itself

−−exclude−tag−all=*FILE* exclude directories containing FILE

−−exclude−tag−under=*FILE*
> exclude everything under directories containing FILE

−−exclude−vcs
> exclude version control system directories

−h, **−−dereference**
> follow symlinks; archive and dump the files they point to

−−hard−dereference
> follow hard links; archive and dump the files they refer to

−K, **−−starting−file**=*MEMBER−NAME*
> begin at member MEMBER−NAME in the archive

−−newer−mtime=*DATE*
> compare date and time when data changed only

−−no−null
> disable the effect of the previous **−−null** option

−−no−recursion
> avoid descending automatically in directories

−−no−unquote
> do not unquote filenames read with **−T**

−−null   **−T** reads null−terminated names, disable **−C**

−N, **−−newer**=*DATE−OR−FILE*, **−−after−date**=*DATE−OR−FILE*
>   only store files newer than DATE−OR−FILE

−−one−file−system
>   stay in local file system when creating archive

−P, **−−absolute−names**
>   don't strip leading '/'s from file names

−−recursion
>   recurse into directories (default)

−−suffix=*STRING*
>   backup before removal, override usual suffix ('˜' unless overridden by environment variable SIM-
>   PLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX)

−T, **−−files−from**=*FILE*
>   get names to extract or create from FILE

−−unquote
>   unquote filenames read with **−T** (default)

−X, **−−exclude−from**=*FILE*
>   exclude patterns listed in FILE

File name transformations:

−−strip−components=*NUMBER*
>   strip NUMBER leading components from file names on extraction

−−transform=*EXPRESSION*, **−−xform**=*EXPRESSION*
>   use sed replace EXPRESSION to transform file names

>   File name matching options (affect both exclude and include patterns):

−−anchored
>   patterns match file name start

−−ignore−case
>   ignore case

−−no−anchored
>   patterns match after any '/' (default for exclusion)

−−no−ignore−case
>   case sensitive matching (default)

−−no−wildcards
>   verbatim string matching

−−no−wildcards−match−slash
>   wildcards do not match '/'

−−wildcards
>   use wildcards (default)

−−wildcards−match−slash
>   wildcards match '/' (default for exclusion)

Informative output:

−−checkpoint[=*NUMBER*]
>   display progress messages every NUMBERth record (default 10)

−−checkpoint−action=*ACTION*
>   execute ACTION on each checkpoint

−−full−time
>   print file time to its full resolution

−−index−file=*FILE*
>   send verbose output to FILE

−l, **−−check−links**
>   print a message if not all links are dumped

−−no−quote−chars=*STRING*
>   disable quoting for characters from STRING

−−quote−chars=*STRING*
>   additionally quote characters from STRING

−−quoting−style=*STYLE*
>   set name quoting style; see below for valid STYLE values

−R, **−−block−number**
>   show block number within archive with each message

−−show−defaults
>   show tar defaults

−−show−omitted−dirs
>   when listing or extracting, list each directory that does not match search criteria

−−show−transformed−names, **−−show−stored−names**
>   show file or archive names after transformation

−−totals[=*SIGNAL*]
>   print total bytes after processing the archive; with an argument − print total bytes when this SIG-
>   NAL is delivered; Allowed signals are: SIGHUP, SIGQUIT, SIGINT, SIGUSR1 and SIGUSR2;
>   the names without SIG prefix are also accepted

−−utc   print file modification dates in UTC

−v, **−−verbose**
>   verbosely list files processed

−−warning=*KEYWORD*
>   warning control

−w, **−−interactive**, **−−confirmation**
>   ask for confirmation for every action

Compatibility options:
>   **−o**   when creating, same as **−−old−archive**; when extracting, same as **−−no−same−owner**

Other options:
>   **−?**, **−−help**
>   give this help list

−−restrict
>   disable use of some potentially harmful options

−−usage
>   give a short usage message

−−version
>   print program version

Mandatory or optional arguments to long options are also mandatory or optional for any corresponding
short options.

The backup suffix is '˜', unless set with **−−suffix** or SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX. The version control
may be set with **−−backup** or VERSION_CONTROL, values are:

none, off
>   never make backups

t, numbered
>   make numbered backups

nil, existing
>   numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise

never, simple
>   always make simple backups

Valid arguments for the −−**quoting−style** option are:

>   literal shell shell−always c c−maybe escape locale clocale

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REPORTING BUGS
Report bugs to <bug−tar@gnu.org>.

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