



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'cpio.1'

\$ man cpio.1

CPIO(1) GNU CPIO CPIO(1)

NAME

cpio - copy files to and from archives

SYNOPSIS

```
cpio {-o|--create} [-0acvABLV] [-C BYTES] [-H FORMAT] [-M MESSAGE] [-O
[[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE] [-F [[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE] [--file=[[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE] [--for?
mat=FORMAT] [--message=MESSAGE] [--null] [--reset-access-time] [--verbose] [--dot] [--ap?
pend] [--block-size=blocks] [--dereference] [--io-size=BYTES] [--quiet] [--force-local]
[--rsh-command=COMMAND] < name-list [> archive]

cpio {-i|--extract} [-bcdfmnrtsuvBSV] [-C BYTES] [-E FILE] [-H FORMAT] [-M MESSAGE] [-R
[USER][:][GROUP]] [-I [[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE] [-F [[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE]
[--file=[[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE] [--make-directories] [--nonmatching] [--preserve-modifica?
tion-time] [--numeric-uid-gid] [--rename] [--list] [--swap-bytes] [--swap] [--dot] [--uncon?
ditional] [--verbose] [--block-size=BLOCKS] [--swap-halfwords] [--io-size=BYTES] [--pat?
tern-file=FILE] [--format=FORMAT] [--owner=[USER][:][GROUP]] [--no-preserve-owner] [--mes?
sage=MESSAGE] [--force-local] [--no-absolute-filenames] [--sparse] [--only-verify-crc]
[--to-stdout] [--quiet] [--rsh-command=COMMAND] [pattern...] [< archive]

cpio {-p|--pass-through} [-0adlmuvLV] [-R [USER][:][GROUP]] [--null] [--reset-access-time]
[--make-directories] [--link] [--quiet] [--preserve-modification-time] [--unconditional]
[--verbose] [--dot] [--dereference] [--owner=[USER][:][GROUP]] [--no-preserve-owner]
[--sparse] destination-directory < name-list

cpio {-?|--help|--usage|--version}
```

Report cpio bugs to bug-cpio@gnu.org

GNU cpio home page: [<http://www.gnu.org/software/cpio/>](http://www.gnu.org/software/cpio/)

General help using GNU software: [<http://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>](http://www.gnu.org/gethelp/)

Report cpio translation bugs to [<http://translationproject.org/team/>](http://translationproject.org/team/)

SEE ALSO

[cpio\(5\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

GNU cpio copies files between archives and directories. It supports the following archive formats: old binary cpio, old portable cpio, SVR4 cpio with and without checksum, HP cpio, and various tar formats.

The operation mode is requested by one of the following options:

-o, --create

Copy-out. Read a list of file names from the standard input and create on the standard output (unless overridden by the **--file** option) an archive containing these files.

-i, --extract

Copy-in. Read the archive from standard input (or from the file supplied with the **--file** option) and extract files from it, or (if the **-t** option is given) list its contents to the standard output. If one or more patterns are supplied, read or list only files matching these patterns. The **-t** option alone implies **-i**.

-p, --pass-through

Pass-through. Read a list of file names from the standard input and copy them to the specified directory.

-, --help

Give a short help summary and exit.

--usage

Print a short usage message and exit.

--version

Print program version and exit.

REPORTING BUGS

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OPTIONS

Operation modifiers valid in any mode

--block-size=BLOCK-SIZE

Set the I/O block size to BLOCK-SIZE * 512 bytes.

-B Set the I/O block size to 5120 bytes.

-c Use the old portable (ASCII) archive format. This is the same as -H odc.

-C, --io-size=NUMBER

Set the I/O block size to the given NUMBER of bytes.

-D, --directory=DIR

Change to directory DIR.

--force-local

Archive file is local, even if its name contains colons.

-H, --format=FORMAT

Use given archive FORMAT. Valid formats are (the number in parentheses gives maximum size for individual archive member):

bin The obsolete binary format. (2147483647 bytes)

odc The old (POSIX.1) portable format. (8589934591 bytes)

newc The new (SVR4) portable format, which supports file systems having more than 65536 inodes. (4294967295 bytes)

crc The new (SVR4) portable format with a checksum added.

tar The old tar format. (8589934591 bytes)

ustar The POSIX.1 tar format. Also recognizes GNU tar archives, which are similar but not identical. (8589934591 bytes)

hpbinary The obsolete binary format used by HP-UX's cpio (which stores device files differently).

hpodc The portable format used by HP-UX's cpio (which stores device files differently).

-R, --owner=[USER][:][GROUP]

In copy-in and copy-pass mode, set the ownership of all files created to the specified USER and/or GROUP. In copy-out mode, store the supplied owner information in the archive.

USER and GROUP are first looked up in the system user and group databases. If not

found, cpio checks if they consist of decimal digits only and, if so, treats them as numeric UID and GID, correspondingly.

To avoid the lookup and ensure that arguments are treated as numeric values, prefix them with a plus sign, e.g.: -R +0:+0.

--quiet

Do not print the number of blocks copied at the end of the run.

--rsh-command=COMMAND

Use remote COMMAND instead of rsh.

-v, --verbose

Verbosely list the files processed.

-V, --dot

Print a "." for each file processed.

-W, --warning=FLAG

Controls what warnings are displayed. The FLAG is one of none, to disable all warnings, all to enable them, truncate, to enable warnings about field truncation, and no-truncate, to disable them.

Multiple -W options accumulate.

Operation modifiers valid in copy-in and copy-out modes

-F, --file=[[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE-FILE

Use this ARCHIVE-FILE instead of standard input (in copy-in mode) or standard output (in copy-out mode). Optional USER and HOST specify the user and host names in case of a remote archive.

-M, --message=STRING

Print STRING when the end of a volume of the backup media is reached.

Operation modifiers valid only in copy-in mode

-b, --swap

Swap both halfwords of words and bytes of halfwords in the data. Equivalent to -sS.

-f, --nonmatching

Only copy files that do not match any of the given patterns.

-n, --numeric-uid-gid

In the verbose table of contents listing, show numeric UID and GID.

-r, --rename

Interactively rename files.

-s, --swap-bytes

Swap the bytes of each halfword in the files.

-S, --swap-halfwords

Swap the halfwords of each word (4 bytes) in the files.

--to-stdout

Extract files to standard output.

-E, --pattern-file=FILE

Read additional patterns specifying filenames to extract or list from FILE.

--only-verify-crc

When reading a CRC format archive, only verify the CRC's of each file in the archive, without actually extracting the files.

Operation modifiers valid only in copy-out mode

-A, --append

Append to an existing archive.

--device-independent, --reproducible

Create reproducible archives. This is equivalent to --ignore-devno --ignore-dirnlink --renumber-inodes.

--ignore-devno

Store 0 in the device number field of each archive member, instead of the actual device number.

--ignore-dirnlink

Store 2 in the nlink field of each directory archive member, instead of the actual number of links.

-O [[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE-NAME

Use ARCHIVE-NAME instead of standard output. Optional USER and HOST specify the user and host names in case of a remote archive.

The output archive name can be specified either using this option, or using -F (--file), but not both.

--renumber-inodes

Renumber inodes when storing them in the archive.

Operation modifiers valid only in copy-pass mode

-l, --link

Link files instead of copying them, when possible.

Operation modifiers valid in copy-in and copy-out modes

`--absolute-filenames`

Do not strip file system prefix components from the file names. This is the default.

`--no-absolute-filenames`

Create all files relative to the current directory.

Operation modifiers valid in copy-out and copy-pass modes

`-0, --null`

Filenames in the list are delimited by null characters instead of newlines.

`-a, --reset-access-time`

Reset the access times of files after reading them.

`-I [[USER@]HOST:]ARCHIVE-NAME`

Use `ARCHIVE-NAME` instead of standard input. Optional `USER` and `HOST` specify the user and host names in case of a remote archive.

The input archive name can be specified either using this option, or using `-F` (`--file`), but not both.

`-L, --dereference`

Dereference symbolic links (copy the files that they point to instead of copying the links).

Operation modifiers valid in copy-in and copy-pass modes

`-d, --make-directories`

Create leading directories where needed.

`-m, --preserve-modification-time`

Retain previous file modification times when creating files.

`--no-preserve-owner`

Do not change the ownership of the files.

`--sparse`

Write files with large blocks of zeros as sparse files.

`-u, --unconditional`

Replace all files unconditionally.

RETURN VALUE

GNU `cpio` exits with code 0 if it was able to successfully complete the requested operation.

On errors, it exits with code 2.

SEE ALSO

tar(1), rmt(8), mt(1).

BUG REPORTS

Report bugs to <bug-cpio@gnu.org>.

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CPIO

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CPIO(1)