



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'insque.3'

\$ man insque.3

insque(3) Library Functions Manual insque(3)

NAME

insque, remque - insert/remove an item from a queue

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <search.h>
```

```
void insque(void *elem, void *prev);
```

```
void remque(void *elem);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

insque(), remque():

```
_XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500
```

```
|| /* glibc >= 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

```
|| /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `insque()` and `remque()` functions manipulate doubly linked lists. Each element in the list is a structure of which the first two elements are a forward and a backward pointer.

The linked list may be linear (i.e., NULL forward pointer at the end of the list and NULL backward pointer at the start of the list) or circular.

The `insque()` function inserts the element pointed to by `elem` immediately after the element pointed to by `prev`.

If the list is linear, then the call `insque(elem, NULL)` can be used to insert the initial list element, and the call sets the forward and backward pointers of `elem` to NULL.

If the list is circular, the caller should ensure that the forward and backward pointers of the first element are initialized to point to that element, and the prev argument of the `insque()` call should also point to the element.

The `remque()` function removes the element pointed to by `elem` from the doubly linked list.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

? Interface	? Attribute	? Value	?
-------------	-------------	---------	---

[illegible]

? insque(), remque() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

[illegible]

VERSIONS

On ancient systems, the arguments of these functions were of type `struct qelem *`, defined as:

```
struct qelem {
    struct qelem *q_forw;
    struct qelem *q_back;
    char          q_data[1];
};
```

This is still what you will get if `_GNU_SOURCE` is defined before including `<search.h>`.

The location of the prototypes for these functions differs among several versions of UNIX.

The above is the POSIX version. Some systems place them in `<string.h>`.

STANDARDS

POSIX.1-2008.

HISTORY

POSIX.1-2001.

BUGS

In glibc 2.4 and earlier, it was not possible to specify prev as NULL. Consequently, to build a linear list, the caller had to build a list using an initial call that contained the first two elements of the list, with the forward and backward pointers in each element suitably initialized.

EXAMPLES

The program below demonstrates the use of `insque()`. Here is an example run of the program:

```
$ ./a.out -c a b c
```

Traversing completed list:

a

b

c

That was a circular list

Program source

```
#include <search.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdlib.h>

#include <unistd.h>

struct element {

    struct element *forward;

    struct element *backward;

    char *name;

};

static struct element *

new_element(void)

{

    struct element *e;

    e = malloc(sizeof(*e));

    if (e == NULL) {

        fprintf(stderr, "malloc() failed\n");

        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);

    }

    return e;

}

int

main(int argc, char *argv[])

{

    struct element *first, *elem, *prev;

    int circular, opt, errfnd;

    /* The "-c" command-line option can be used to specify that the
```

```

    list is circular. */
errfnd = 0;
circular = 0;
while ((opt = getopt(argc, argv, "c")) != -1) {
    switch (opt) {
        case 'c':
            circular = 1;
            break;
        default:
            errfnd = 1;
            break;
    }
}

if (errfnd || optind >= argc) {
    fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s [-c] string...\n", argv[0]);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

/* Create first element and place it in the linked list. */
elem = new_element();
first = elem;
elem->name = argv[optind];
if (circular) {
    elem->forward = elem;
    elem->backward = elem;
    insque(elem, elem);
} else {
    insque(elem, NULL);
}

/* Add remaining command-line arguments as list elements. */
while (++optind < argc) {
    prev = elem;
    elem = new_element();
    elem->name = argv[optind];

```

```

    insque(elem, prev);
}

/* Traverse the list from the start, printing element names. */
printf("Traversing completed list:\n");
elem = first;
do {
    printf("  %s\n", elem->name);
    elem = elem->forward;
} while (elem != NULL && elem != first);
if (elem == first)
    printf("That was a circular list\n");
exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}

```

SEE ALSO

[queue\(7\)](#)

[Linux man-pages 6.17](#)

2026-02-08

[insque\(3\)](#)