

Sed Stuff

I use this a lot in my scripts - it is about time I keep a proper reference page for it.

Basic Manipulation

Append specific line

```
sed '1a this_line' test.txt
```

Remove all comments before 'start' and after 'stop' lines

```
sed -e '1,/start/ s/#.*//' -e '/stop/, $ s/#.*//'
```

Insert text `this_line` in file `test.txt` **BEFORE** a match (e.g. line starting with `find=`). **Note:** use `-i` to actually change the file

```
sed '/^find=.*i this_line' test.txt
```

Insert text `this_line` in file `test.txt` **AFTER** a match (e.g. line starting with `find=`).

```
sed '/^find=.*a this_line' test.txt
```

Insert text `this_line` in file `test.txt` **IN-PLACE** of a match (e.g. line starting with `find=`).

```
sed 's/^find=.*$/this_line/' test.txt
```

Slightly Advanced

Modify the line **AFTER** a match

```
sed '/^find=.*!b;n;s/^\(.*\)=(.*\)$/\1=changed/' test.txt
```

Note The `!b` tells sed to break current processing and `n` starts the next line

Prints lines in between two lines starting with `— CLUS` (excluding matching lines)

```
sed -n "/^-- CLUS:{$pick/,/^-- CLUS/{/^-- CLUS/!p}" test.txt
```

more... coming soon...

Sed codes

Dumped

sed

```
: # label
= # line_number
a # append_text_to_stdout_after_flush
b # branch_unconditional
c # range_change
d # pattern_delete_top/cycle
D # pattern_ltrunc(line+nl)_top/cycle
g # pattern=hold
G # pattern+=nl+hold
h # hold=pattern
H # hold+=nl+pattern
i # insert_text_to_stdout_now
l # pattern_list
n # pattern_flush=nextline_continue
N # pattern+=nl+nextline
p # pattern_print
P # pattern_first_line_print
q # flush_quit
r # append_file_to_stdout_after_flush
s # substitute
t # branch_on_substitute
w # append_pattern_to_file_now
x # swap_pattern_and_hold
y # transform_chars
```

```
sed -n '/^\[[0-9]*\]$/ {h;:l;n;s/^$//;td;s/^\{[0-9]*\}$//;td;H;bl;:d;x;p;q}'
```

```
sed -n '/^\[[0-9]*\]$/ {h};/^{\[0-9]*\}$/ {x;p;x;p}'
```

```
sed -n '/^\[[0-9]*\]$/ {h};/^{\[0-9]*\}$/ {x;s/\n/
/g;Ts;p;s/^\(\[[0-9]*\]\).*$/\1/;:s;G;x;d};/^$/{x;s/\n/ /g;p;d};$ {x;s/\n/
/g;p;d};/^@/{H};/^#{H};/^+/{H}'
```

My old notes - will sort this later

[sed-notes](#)

```
# convert text file into c string
sed -e 's/\\/\\\\/g;s/"/\\"/g;s/\t/\\t/g;s/^\t/;s/$/\\n/' <file>

# something else... with explanation
```

```
sed -n '/## Screensh/,/##/{/Scree/{p;n};/##/{q};p}' file

-n                -> not print
'/## Screen/, /##/ -> match range, I guess you knew it already
{                -> if in this range
    /Scree/      -> and line matches /Screenshot/
    {p;n};       -> do print line, and read next row (skip doing rest
processing)
    /##/         -> if line matches "##"
    q;           -> quit, we have done all printing
    p            -> if we come to here, print the line
}
```

From:

<https://azman.my1matrix.cc/> - Azman @MY1

Permanent link:

<https://azman.my1matrix.cc/doku.php?id=notes:sed>

Last update: **2026/02/08 03:46**

