

Emacs support for Mouse in Terminal Mode

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
Emacs and the Mouse Last updated on: 2025-11-25	For Emacs running in graphics mode, the mouse is always available to Emacs. It is not so when Emacs runs in Terminal (TTY) mode. By default mouse events will be interpreted by the terminal operator. If your terminal support the Xterm system (like macOS Terminal.app does), you can activate the xterm-mouse-mode with the <code><f11><f12></code> PEL key bindings and activate mouse functionality. PEL also activates scrolling with the mouse when xterm-mouse-mode is active.		
Toggle XTerm mouse mode in terminal mode.	<code><f11><f12></code>	(xterm-mouse-mode &optional ARG)	Toggle XTerm mouse mode. - With a prefix argument ARG, enable XTerm mouse mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise. - Turn it on to use Emacs mouse commands, and off to use xterm mouse commands. - This works in terminal emulators compatible with xterm. It only works for simple uses of the mouse. Basically, only non-modified single clicks are supported. When turned on, the normal xterm mouse functionality for such clicks is still available by holding down the SHIFT key while pressing the mouse button. 👉 In terminal-mode turning the Xterm mouse mode on and off can be quite useful: - Copy-paste: - when it is off you can copy and paste with the mouse but by-passing Emacs and using the OS support, - when it is on, you can use Emacs support for selecting a region with the mouse movement and then using the Emacs commands to copy, kill or delete the region. - Scroll: - with Xterm mouse mode off: scrolling with your mouse moves the cursor up or down, - with Xterm mouse mode on: scrolling with your mouse scrolls the current buffer.
Left Mouse click	<code><mouse-1></code>	(mouse-set-point EVENT &optional PROMOTE-TO-REGION)	Move point to the position clicked on with the mouse. This should be bound to a mouse click event type. 👉 Also available when Emacs is running in Terminal (TTY) mode if the xterm-mouse-mode is activated.
Right Mouse click	<code><mouse-3></code> <code>S-<mouse-1></code>	(mouse-save-then-kill CLICK)	Set the region according to CLICK; the second time, kill it. CLICK should be a mouse click event. - If the region is inactive, activate it temporarily. Set mark at the original point, and move point to the position of CLICK. - If the region is already active, adjust it. Normally, do this by moving point or mark, whichever is closer, to CLICK. But if you have selected whole words or lines, move point or mark to the word or line boundary closest to CLICK instead. - kIf ‘mouse-drag-copy-region’ is non-nil, this command also saves the new region to the kill ring (replacing the previous kill if the previous region was just saved to the kill ring). - If this command is called a second consecutive time with the same CLICK position, kill the region (or delete it if ‘mouse-drag-copy-region’ is non-nil)
Run keyboard macro at mouse location	<code>S-<mouse-3></code>	(kmacro-end-call-mouse EVENT)	Move point to the position clicked with the mouse and call last kbd macro. If kbd macro currently being defined end it before activating it.
Pop-up Buffer List Menu on C-Left Mouse	<code>C-<down-mouse-1></code>	(mouse-buffer-menu EVENT)	Pop up a menu of buffers for selection with the mouse. This switches buffers in the window that you clicked on, and selects that window. 👉 Also available when Emacs is running in Terminal (TTY) mode if the xterm-mouse-mode is activated.
Pop-up Mode-specific Menu on C-Right Mouse	<code>C-<down-mouse-3></code>	(mouse-major-mode-menu EVENT &optional PREFIX)	Pop up a mode-specific menu of mouse commands. Default to the Edit menu if the major mode doesn’t define a menu. 👉 Also available when Emacs is running in Terminal (TTY) mode if the xterm-mouse-mode is activated.
Scrolling with the mouse	Scrolling with the mouse is handled nicely when Emacs runs in graphical mode. However, when Emacs is running in Terminal (TTY) mode it can also perform scroll operations when events are mapped to scroll commands and when the xterm-mouse-mode is active. PEL activates the following commands in terminal mode four the following mouse commands.		
Scroll Up See also: 🔗 Scrolling	<code><wheel-up></code> <code><mouse-5></code>	(pel-scroll-up &optional N)	Scroll up: move text up (same direction as forward). Scrolling up is bringing text ahead into view. 👉 PEL activates the mouse scrolling in Terminal (TTY) mode when the xterm-mouse-mode is activated (it can be enabled by <code><f11><f12></code>).
Scroll Down See also: 🔗 Scrolling	<code><wheel-down></code> <code><mouse-4></code>	(pel-scroll-down &optional N)	Scroll down: move text down (same direction as backwards). Scrolling down is bringing text behind into view. 👉 PEL activates the mouse scrolling in Terminal (TTY) mode when the xterm-mouse-mode is activated (it can be enabled by <code><f11><f12></code>).