

# *Artistic Style 2.06*

**A Free, Fast, and Small Automatic Formatter  
for C, C++, C++/CLI, Objective-C, C#, and Java Source Code**

## **Contents**

General Information

Quick Start

Usage

Options

Options File

Disable Formatting

Basic Bracket Styles

Bracket Style Options

default bracket style style=allman style=java style=kr  
style=stroustrup style=whitesmith style=vtk style=banner  
style=gnu style=linux style=horstmann style=1tbs style=google  
style=mozilla style=pico style=lisp

Tab Options

default indent indent=spaces indent=tab indent=force-tab  
--indent=force-tab-x

Bracket Modify Options

attach-namespaces attach-classes attach-inlines attach-extern-c

Indentation Options

indent-classes indent-modifiers indent-switches indent-cases  
indent-namespaces indent-continuation indent-labels  
indent-preproc-block indent-preproc-define indent-preproc-cond  
indent-coll-comments min-conditional-indent max-instatement-indent

Padding Options

break-blocks break-blocks=all pad-oper pad-comma pad-paren  
pad-paren-out pad-first-paren-out pad-paren-in pad-header  
unpad-paren delete-empty-lines fill-empty-lines align-pointer  
align-reference

Formatting Options

break-closing-brackets break-elseifs break-one-line-headers  
add-brackets add-one-line-brackets remove-brackets  
keep-one-line-blocks keep-one-line-statements convert-tabs  
close-templates remove-comment-prefix max-code-length  
break-after-logical mode

Objective-C Options

pad-method-prefix unpad-method-prefix pad-return-type  
unpad-return-type pad-param-type unpad-param-type  
align-method-colon pad-method-colon

Other Options

suffix suffix=none recursive dry-run exclude  
ignore-exclude-errors ignore-exclude-errors-x errors-to-stdout  
preserve-date verbose formatted quiet lineend

Command Line Only

options options=none ascii version help html html=

---

## General Information

### Line Endings

Line endings in the formatted file will be the same as the input file. If there are mixed line endings the most frequent occurrence will be used. There is also an option to specify or change the line endings.

### File Type

Artistic Style will determine the file type from the file extension. The extension ".java" indicates a Java file, and ".cs" indicates a C# file. Everything else is a C type file (C, C++, C++/CLI, or Objective-C). If you are using a non-standard file extension for Java or C#, use one of the --mode= options.

### Wildcards and Recursion

Artistic Style can process directories recursively. Wildcards (such as "\*.cpp" or "\*.c??") are processed internally. If a shell is used, it should pass the wildcards to Artistic Style instead of resolving them first. For Linux use double quotes around paths whose file name contains wildcards. For Windows use double quotes around paths whose file name contains spaces. The [recursive](#) option in the [Other Options](#) section contains information on recursive processing.

### File Names

When a file is formatted, the newly indented file retains the original file name. A copy of the original file is created with an **.orig** appended to the original file name. (This can be set to a different string by the option --suffix=, or suppressed altogether by the options -n or --suffix=none). Thus, after indenting *SourceFile.cpp* the indented file will be named *SourceFile.cpp*, while the original pre-indented file will be renamed to *SourceFile.cpp.orig*.

### Internationalization

Artistic Style has been internationalized to process files and directories in any language.

It has also been translated into several languages. The translation to use is determined by the User Locale for Windows and the LANG environment variable for other systems. The translation will be done automatically from these settings. If no translation is available it will default to English. There is an "ascii" option to use English instead of the system language.

The source code for the translations is at the end of ASLocalizer.cpp in the form of an English-Translation pair. If you make corrections to a translation, send the source as a bug report and it will be included in the next release.

To add a new language, add a new translation class to ASLocalizer.h. Add the English-Translation pair to the constructor in ASLocalizer.cpp. Update the WinLangCode array and add the language code to the function setTranslationClass(). The ASLocalizer.cpp program contains comments that give web pages for obtaining the LCIDs and language codes. Send the source code as a bug report and it will be included in the next release.

### Other Considerations

The names of special characters used in programming vary by region. The terminology used by Artistic Style, followed by other common names, is:

brackets { } - also called braces, curly brackets, or curly braces.  
parens ( ) - also called parentheses, brackets, round brackets, circle brackets, or soft brackets.  
block parens [ ] - also called brackets, square brackets, closed brackets, or hard brackets.  
angle brackets < > - also called brackets, pointy brackets, triangular brackets, diamond brackets, tuples, or chevrons.

Visual Studio, and possibly other development environments, has an Edit option "Align Assignments" that will align assignment operators across multiple lines. There is also an extension named "Code alignment" that will align the code on other items as well. Formatting with these options and extensions can be used with Artistic Style. The space padding will be maintained and the alignment will be preserved.

Artistic Style can format standard class library statements such as Open GL, wxWidgets, Qt, and MFC.

Embedded assembler language is formatted correctly. This includes extended assembly and Microsoft specific assembler lines and blocks.

Artistic Style can format embedded SQL statements. The SQL formatting will be maintained as long as the standard hanging indent format is used. If the "exec sql" statement is indented more than the following statements, the SQL will be aligned in a single column.

Unicode files encoded as UTF-16, both big and little endian, will be formatted. The files must begin with a byte order mark (BOM) to be recognized. Files encoded as UTF-32 will be rejected. Some compilers do not support these encodings. These files can be converted to UTF-8 encoding with the program "iconv". There are Linux and Windows versions available (the Windows version does not seem to work for all encodings). A sample command line is "iconv -f UTF-16 -t UTF-8 < filein.cpp > fileout.cpp". Visual Studio can convert the files from the "File > Advanced Save Options" menu. Then select encoding "Unicode (UTF-8 with signature) - Codepage 65001". There are other development environments and text editors, such as SciTE, that can convert files to UTF-8.

Embedded statements that are multiple-line and are NOT in a C-type format, such as Python, are usually mal-formatted (a C-type format has blocks enclosed by brackets and statements terminated by a semi-colon). Macros that define functions may cause the following code to be mal-formatted because the macro is missing the brackets and semi-colons from the definition. If you have source code with these types of statements, exclude them with the [exclude=####](#) option described in the [Other Options](#) section.

---

## Quick Start

If you have never used Artistic Style there are a several of ways to start.

One is to run it with no options at all. This will use the [default bracket style](#), 4 spaces per indent, and no formatting changes. This will break the brackets for one line blocks and will break one line statements. To change this, use the option [keep-one-line-blocks](#) and/or [keep-one-line-statements](#) described in the [Formatting Options](#) section.

Another way is to use one of the bracket styles described in the [Bracket Style Options](#) section. Select one with a bracket formatting style you like. If no indentation option is set, the default option of 4 spaces will be used. These options also break one line blocks and one line statements as described above.

A third option is to use an options file from the "file" folder. If there is a coding style

you want to duplicate, input the appropriate [options file](#). Use the option `options=####` to specify the file to use. It must contain a path for the file, including the file name.

Once you are familiar with the options you can customize the format to your personal preference.

---

## Usage

Artistic style is a console program that receives information from the command line.

Command line format:

```
astyle [OPTIONS] SourceFile1 SourceFile2 SourceFile3 [ . . . ]
```

The block parens [ ] indicate that more than one option or more than one file name can be entered. They are NOT actually included in the command. For the options format refer to the following Options section.

Example to format a single file:

```
astyle --style=allman /home/user/project/foo.cpp
```

Example to format all .cpp and .h files recursively:

```
astyle --style=allman --recursive /home/user/project/*.cpp /home/user/project/*.h
```

The < and > characters may be used to redirect the files into standard input (stdin) and out of standard output (stdout) - don't forget them! With this option only one file at a time can be formatted. Wildcards are not recognized, there are no console messages, and a backup is not created. On Windows the output will always have Windows line ends.

Example of redirection option to format a single file and change the name:

```
astyle --style=allman < OriginalSourceFile > BeautifiedSourceFile
```

The redirection option may be used to display the formatted file without updating:

```
astyle --style=allman < OriginalSourceFile | less
```

---

## Options

Not specifying any options will result in the [default bracket style](#), 4 spaces per indent, and no formatting changes.

Options may be written in two different ways.

### Long options

These options start with '--', and must be written one at a time. (Example: '--style=allman --indent=spaces=4')

### Short Options

These options start with a single '-', and may be concatenated together.

(Example: '-bbs4' is the same as writing '-b -p -s4'.)

## Options File

An OPTIONAL, default options file may be used to supplement or replace the command line options.

- The command line options have precedence. If there is a conflict between a command line option and an option in the default options file, the command line option will be used.
- Artistic Style looks for this file in the following locations (in order):
  1. the file indicated by the --options= command line option;
  2. the file and directory indicated by the environment variable ARTISTIC\_STYLE\_OPTIONS (if it exists);
  3. the file named .astylerc in the directory pointed to by the HOME environment variable (e.g. "\$HOME/.astylerc" on Linux);
  4. the file named astylerc in the directory pointed to by the USERPROFILE environment variable (e.g. "%USERPROFILE%\astylerc" on Windows).
- This option file lookup can be disabled by specifying --options=none on the command line.
- Options may be set apart by new-lines, tabs, commas, or spaces.
- Long options in the options file may be written without the preceding '--'.
- Lines within the options file that begin with '#' are considered line-comments.

Example of a default options file:

```
# this line is a comment
--style=allman      # this is a line-end comment
# long options can be written without the preceding '--'
indent-switches    # cannot do this on the command line
# short options must have the preceding '--'
-t -p
# short options can be concatenated together
-M60Ucv
```

## Disable Formatting

Formatting and indenting can be disabled with comment tags inserted in the source code.

### Disable Block

Blocks of code can be disabled using "off" and "on" tags. The tags are included in the source file as comments. The comment may be a C comment (*/\* ... \*/*) or a C++ line comment (*//*). The tag must be included in a single line comment. If the comment exceeds one line the indent tag will be ignored. Additional information can be included with the tag.

The beginning tag is `"*INDENT-OFF"` and the ending tag is `"*INDENT-ON"`. They may be used anywhere in the program with the condition that parsing is partially disabled between the tags. Disabling partial statements may result in incorrect formatting after the ending tag. If this happens expand the tags to include additional code.

The following retains the format of a preprocessor define:

```
// *INDENT-OFF*
```

```
#define FOO_DECLARE_int32_(name) \  
    FOO_API_ extern ::Int32 FOO_FLAG(name)  
// *INDENT-ON*
```

## Disable Line

Artistic Style cannot always determine the usage of symbols with more than one meaning. For example an asterisk (\*) can be multiplication, a pointer, or a pointer dereference. The "&" and "&&" symbols are a similar problem.

If a symbol is being padded incorrectly, padding it manually may fix the problem. If it is still being padded incorrectly, then disabling the formatting may be necessary. To avoid having to use the "disable block" tags above, a single line disable is available.

A line-end comment tag "*\*NOPAD\**" will disable the "pad-oper", "align-pointer", and "align-reference" options. Parsing does NOT stop and all other formatting will be applied to the line. The tag applies to the one line only.

The following prevents the operator padding from changing:

```
size_t foo = (unsigned int) -1; // *NOPAD*
```

---

## Basic Bracket Styles

There are three basic bracket styles.

Attached - The brackets are attached to the end of the last line of the previous block. (Java).

Broken - The brackets are broken from the previous block. (Allman).

Linux - The brackets are attached except for the opening bracket of a function, class, or namespace (K&R, Linux).

Other bracket styles are variations of these. Some will use variations on the placement of class, namespace, or other brackets. (Stroustrup, Google, One True Brace, Lisp). Others will indent the brackets (Whitesmith, VTK, Banner, GNU). Still others will use run-in brackets where the following statement is on the same line as the bracket (Horstmann, Pico).

There are technical arguments for selecting one style over another. But the usual reason comes down to personal preference. Some like broken brackets with vertical whitespace that makes the code easy to read. Others like attached brackets with code that is more compact. Sometimes programmers just want a change. It is easier to select a preference if you can see an entire file formatted in a certain bracket style. With Artistic Style you can easily modify source code to suit your preference.

---

## Bracket Style Options

Bracket Style options define the bracket style to use. All options default to 4 spaces per indent, indented with spaces. By default, none of the styles indent namespaces. Other indentations are indicated in the individual style description. All options will break the brackets for one line blocks and will break one line statements. To change this, use the option [keep-one-line-blocks](#) and/or [keep-one-line-statements](#) described in the [Formatting Options](#) section.

**default bracket style**

If no bracket style is requested, the default bracket style will be used. The opening brackets are not changed and the closing brackets will be broken from the preceding line. There are a few exceptions to this.

**--style=allman / --style=bsd / --style=break / -A1**

Allman style uses broken brackets.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar)
    {
        bar();
        return 1;
    }
    else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=java / --style=attach / -A2**

Java style uses attached brackets.

```
int Foo(bool isBar) {
    if (isBar) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    } else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=kr / --style=k&r / --style=k/r / -A3**

Kernighan & Ritchie style uses linux brackets. Opening brackets are broken from namespaces, classes, and function definitions. The brackets are attached to everything else, including arrays, structs, enums, and statements within a function.

Using the k&r option may cause problems because of the &. This can be resolved by enclosing the k&r in quotes (e.g. --style="k&r") or by using one of the alternates --style=kr or --style=k/r.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    } else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=stroustrup / -A4**

Stroustrup style uses linux brackets. Opening brackets are broken from function definitions only. The brackets are attached to everything else, including namespaces, classes, arrays, structs, enums, and statements within a function. This style frequently is used with headers broken from closing brackets (break-closing-brackets) and an indent of 5 spaces.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    }
    else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=whitesmith / -A5**

Whitesmith style uses broken, indented brackets. Switch blocks and class blocks are indented to prevent a 'hanging indent' with the following case statements and C++ class modifiers (public, private, protected).

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar)
    {
        bar();
        return 1;
    }
    else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=vtk / -A15**

VTK (Visualization Toolkit) style uses broken, indented brackets, except for the opening bracket. Switch blocks are indented to prevent a 'hanging indent' with following case statements.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar)
    {
        bar();
        return 1;
    }
    else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=banner / -A6**

Banner style uses attached, indented brackets. Switch blocks and class blocks are indented to prevent a 'hanging indent' with following case statements and C++ class modifiers (public, private, protected).

```
int Foo(bool isBar) {
    if (isBar) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    }
    else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=gnu / -A7**

GNU style uses broken brackets and indented blocks. Extra indentation is added to blocks **within a function** only. Other brackets and blocks are broken, but NOT indented. This style frequently is used with an indent of 2 spaces.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar)
    {
        bar();
        return 1;
    }
    else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=linux / --style=knf / -A8**

Linux style uses linux brackets. Opening brackets are broken from namespace, class, and function definitions. The brackets are attached to everything else, including arrays, structs, enums, and statements within a function. The **minimum conditional indent** is one-half indent. If you want a different minimum conditional indent, use the K&R style instead. This style works best with a large indent. It frequently is used with an indent of 8 spaces.

Also known as Kernel Normal Form (KNF) style, this is the style used in the Linux BSD kernel.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isFoo) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    } else
        return 0;
}
```

#### **--style=horstmann / -A9**

Horstmann style uses broken brackets and run-in statements. Switches are indented to allow a run-in to the opening switch block. This style frequently is used with an indent of 3 spaces.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{ if (isBar)
  { bar();
    return 1;
  }
  else
    return 0;
}
```

#### **--style=1tbs / --style=otbs / -A10**

"One True Brace Style" uses linux brackets and adds brackets to unbracketed one line conditional statements. Opening brackets are broken from namespaces, classes, and function definitions. The brackets are attached to everything else, including arrays, structs, enums, and statements within a function.

In the following example, brackets have been added to the "return 0;" statement. The option `--add-one-line-brackets` can also be used with this style.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isFoo) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    } else {
        return 0;
    }
}
```

#### **--style=google / -A14**

Google style uses attached brackets and indented class access modifiers. See the `indent-modifiers` option for an example of the indented modifiers format. This is not actually a unique bracket style, but is Java style with a non-bracket variation. This style frequently is used with an indent of 2 spaces.

```
int Foo(bool isBar) {
    if (isBar) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    } else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=mozilla / -A16**

Mozilla style uses linux brackets. Opening brackets are broken from classes, structs, enums, and function definitions. The brackets are attached to everything else, including namespaces, arrays, and statements within a function. This style frequently is used with an indent of 2 spaces.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{
    if (isBar) {
        bar();
        return 1;
    } else
        return 0;
}
```

**--style=pico / -A11**

Pico style uses broken brackets and run-in statements with attached closing brackets. The closing bracket is attached to the last line in the block. Switches are indented to allow a run-in to the opening switch block. The style implies keep-one-line-blocks and keep-one-line-statements. If add-brackets is used they will be added as one-line brackets. This style frequently is used with an indent of 2 spaces.

```
int Foo(bool isBar)
{ if (isBar)
  { bar();
    return 1; }
  else
    return 0; }
```

**--style=lisp / --style=python / -A12**

Lisp style uses attached opening and closing brackets. The closing bracket is attached to the last line in the block. The style implies keep-one-line-statements, but NOT keep-one-line-blocks. This style does not support one-line brackets. If add-one-line-brackets is used they will be added as multiple-line brackets.

```
int Foo(bool isBar) {
    if (isBar) {
        bar()
        return 1; }
    else
        return 0; }
```

## Tab Options

The following examples show whitespace characters. A space is indicated with a . (dot), a tab is indicated by a > (greater than).

**default indent**

If no indentation option is set, the default option of 4 spaces will be used (e.g. -s4 --indent=spaces=4).

with default values:

```
void Foo() {
....if (isBar1
.....&& isBar2) // indent of this line can be changed with min-conditional-indent
.....bar();
}
```

**--indent=spaces / --indent=spaces=# / -s#**

Indent using # **spaces** per indent (e.g. -s**3** --indent=spaces=**3**). # must be between 2 and 20. Not specifying # will result in a default of 4 spaces per indent.

with indent=spaces=3

```
void Foo() {
...if (isBar1
.....&& isBar2) // indent of this line can be changed with min-conditional-indent
.....bar();
}
```

**--indent=tab / --indent=tab=# / -t / -t#**

Indent using **tabs for indentation, and spaces for continuation line alignment**.

This ensures that the code is displayed correctly regardless of the viewer's tab size. Treat each indent as # spaces (e.g. -t**6** / --indent=tab=**6**). # must be between 2 and 20. If no # is set, treats indents as 4 spaces.

with indent=tab:

```
void Foo() {
> if (isBar1
> .....&& isBar2) // indent of this line can be changed with min-conditional-indent
> > bar();
}
```

with style=linux, indent=tab=8:

```
void Foo()
{
> if (isBar1
> .....&& isBar2) // indent of this line can NOT be changed with style=linux
> > bar();
}
```

**--indent=force-tab / --indent=force-tab=# / -T / -T#**

Indent using **all tab** characters, if possible. If a continuation line is not an even number of tabs, spaces will be added at the end. Treat each tab as # spaces (e.g. -T**6** / --indent=force-tab=**6**). # must be between 2 and 20. If no # is set, treats tabs as 4 spaces.

with indent=force-tab:

```
void Foo() {
> if (isBar1
> > > && isBar2) // indent of this line can be changed with min-conditional-indent
> > bar();
}
```

**--indent=force-tab-x / --indent=force-tab-x=# / -xT / -xT#**

This force-tab option allows the tab length to be set to a length that is different than the indent length. This may cause the indentation to be a **mix of both tabs and spaces**. Tabs will be used to indent, if possible. If a tab indent cannot be used, spaces will be used instead.

This option sets the **tab length**. Treat each tab as # spaces (e.g. -xT**6** / --indent=force-tab-x=**6**). # must be between 2 and 20. If no # is set, treats tabs as 8 spaces. To change the **indent length** from the default of 4 spaces the option "indent=force-tab" must also be used.

with indent=force-tab-x (default tab length of 8 and default indent length of 4):

```
void Foo() {
....if (isBar1
> .....&& isBar2) // indent of this line can be changed with min-conditional-indent
```

```
>     bar();
}
```

---

## Bracket Modify Options

### **--attach-namespaces / -xn**

Attach brackets to a namespace statement. This is done regardless of the bracket style being used. It will also attach brackets to CORBA IDL module statements.

the bracket is always attached to a namespace statement:

```
namespace FooName {
...
}
```

### **--attach-classes / -xc**

Attach brackets to a class statement. This is done regardless of the bracket style being used.

the bracket is always attached to a class statement:

```
class FooClass {
...
};
```

### **--attach-inlines / -xl**

Attach brackets to class and struct inline function definitions. This is not done for run-in type brackets (Horstmann and Pico styles). This option is effective for C++ files only.

all brackets are always attached to class and struct inline function definitions:

```
class FooClass
{
    void Foo() {
        ...
    }
};
```

### **--attach-extern-c / -xk**

Attach brackets to a bracketed extern "C" statement. This is done regardless of the bracket style being used. This option is effective for C++ files only.

An extern "C" statement that is part of a function definition is formatted according to the requested bracket style. Bracketed extern "C" statements are unaffected by the bracket style and this option is the only way to change them.

this option attaches brackets to a bracketed extern "C" statement:

```
#ifdef __cplusplus
extern "C" {
#endif
```

but function definitions are formatted according to the requested bracket style:

```
extern "C" EXPORT void STDCALL Foo()
{}
```

---

## Indentation Options

### **--indent-classes / -C**

Indent 'class' and 'struct' blocks so that the entire block is indented. The struct blocks are indented only if an access modifier, 'public:', 'protected:' or 'private:', is declared somewhere in the struct. This option is effective for C++ files only.

```
class Foo
{
public:
    Foo();
    virtual ~Foo();
};
```

becomes:

```
class Foo
{
    public:
        Foo();
        virtual ~Foo();
};
```

### **--indent-modifiers / -xG**

Indent 'class' and 'struct' access modifiers, 'public:', 'protected:' and 'private:', one half indent. The rest of the class is not indented. This option is effective for C++ files only. If used with indent-classes this option will be ignored.

```
class Foo
{
public:
    Foo();
    virtual ~Foo();
};
```

becomes:

```
class Foo
{
    public:
        Foo();
        virtual ~Foo();
};
```

### **--indent-switches / -S**

Indent 'switch' blocks so that the 'case X:' statements are indented in the switch block. The entire case block is indented.

```
switch (foo)
{
case 1:
    a += 1;
    break;

case 2:
{
    a += 2;
    break;
}
}
```

becomes:

```
switch (foo)
{
    case 1:
        a += 1;
        break;

    case 2:
        {
            a += 2;
            break;
        }
}
```

```

    {
      a += 2;
      break;
    }
}

```

**--indent-cases / -K**

Indent 'case X:' blocks from the 'case X:' headers. Case statements not enclosed in blocks are NOT indented.

```

switch (foo)
{
  case 1:
    a += 1;
    break;

  case 2:
    {
      a += 2;
      break;
    }
}

```

becomes:

```

switch (foo)
{
  case 1:
    a += 1;
    break;

  case 2:
    {
      a += 2;
      break;
    }
}

```

**--indent-namespaces / -N**

Add extra indentation to namespace blocks. This option has no effect on Java files. It will also indent CORBA IDL module statements.

```

namespace foospace
{
  class Foo
  {
    public:
      Foo();
      virtual ~Foo();
  };
}

```

becomes:

```

namespace foospace
{
  class Foo
  {
    public:
      Foo();
      virtual ~Foo();
  };
}

```

**--indent-continuation=# / -xt#**

Set the continuation indent for a line that ends with an opening paren '(' or an assignment '='. This includes function definitions and declarations. The value for # indicates a **number of indents**. The valid values are the integer values from **0 thru 4**: The default value is **1**, one indent.

```
isLongVariable =
    foo1 ||
    foo2;

isLongFunction(
    bar1,
    bar2);
```

becomes (with indent-continuation=3):

```
isLongVariable =
    foo1 ||
    foo2;

isLongFunction(
    bar1,
    bar2);
```

#### **--indent-labels / -L**

Add extra indentation to labels so they appear 1 indent less than the current indentation, rather than being flushed to the left (the default).

```
void Foo() {
    while (isFoo) {
        if (isFoo)
            goto error;
        ...
    }
error:
    ...
}
```

becomes (with indented 'error:'):

```
void Foo() {
    while (isFoo) {
        if (isFoo)
            goto error;
        ...
    }
    error:
        ...
}
```

#### **--indent-preproc-block / -xW**

Indent preprocessor blocks at bracket level zero and immediately within a namespace. There are restrictions on what will be indented. Blocks within methods, classes, arrays, etc., will not be indented. Blocks containing brackets or multi-line define statements will not be indented. Without this option the preprocessor block is not indented.

```
#ifdef _WIN32
#include <windows.h>
#endif
#define EXPORT
#endif
```

becomes:

```
#ifdef _WIN32
    #include <windows.h>
#endif
    #define EXPORT
#endif
```

#### **--indent-preproc-define / -w**

Indent multi-line preprocessor definitions ending with a backslash. Should be used with `--convert-tabs` for proper results. Does a pretty good job, but cannot perform miracles in obfuscated preprocessor definitions. Without this option the preprocessor statements remain unchanged.

```
#define Is_Bar(arg,a,b) \
(Is_Foo((arg), (a)) \
|| Is_Foo((arg), (b)))
```

becomes:

```
#define Is_Bar(arg,a,b) \
    (Is_Foo((arg), (a)) \
     || Is_Foo((arg), (b)))
```

#### `--indent-preproc-cond / -xw`

Indent preprocessor conditional statements to the same level as the source code.

```
        isFoo = true;
#ifdef UNICODE
        text = wideBuff;
#else
        text = buff;
#endif
```

becomes:

```
isFoo = true;
#ifdef UNICODE
text = wideBuff;
#else
text = buff;
#endif
```

#### `--indent-coll-comments / -Y`

Indent C++ comments beginning in column one. By default C++ comments beginning in column one are assumed to be commented-out code and not indented. This option will allow the comments to be indented with the code.

```
void Foo()\n"
{
// comment
    if (isFoo)
        bar();
}
```

becomes:

```
void Foo()\n"
{
    // comment
    if (isFoo)
        bar();
}
```

#### `--min-conditional-indent=# / -m#`

Set the minimal indent that is added when a header is built of multiple lines. This indent helps to easily separate the header from the command statements that follow. The value for `#` indicates a **number of indents** and is a minimum value. The indent may be greater to align with the data on the previous line.

The valid values are:

0 - no minimal indent. The lines will be aligned with the paren on the preceding line.

1 - indent at least one additional indent.

2 - indent at least two additional indents.

3 - indent at least one-half an additional indent. This is intended for large indents (e.g. 8).

The default value is **2**, two additional indents.

```
// default setting makes this non-bracketed code clear
if (a < b
    || c > d)
    foo++;

// but creates an exaggerated indent in this bracketed code
if (a < b
    || c > d)
{
    foo++;
}
```

becomes (when setting `--min-conditional-indent=0`):

```
// setting makes this non-bracketed code less clear
if (a < b
    || c > d)
    foo++;

// but makes this bracketed code clearer
if (a < b
    || c > d)
{
    foo++;
}
```

#### `--max-instatement-indent=# / -M#`

Set the maximum of **#** spaces to indent a continuation line. The **#** indicates a number of columns and must not be less than **40** nor greater than **120**. If no value is set, the default value of **40** will be used. This option will prevent continuation lines from extending too far to the right. Setting a larger value will allow the code to be extended further to the right.

```
fooArray[] = { red,
              green,
              blue };

fooFunction(barArg1,
            barArg2,
            barArg3);
```

becomes (with larger value):

```
fooArray[] = { red,
              green,
              blue };

fooFunction(barArg1,
            barArg2,
            barArg3);
```

## Padding Options

#### `--break-blocks / -f`

Pad empty lines around header blocks (e.g. 'if', 'for', 'while'...).

```
isFoo = true;
if (isFoo) {
    bar();
} else {
    anotherBar();
}
isBar = false;
```

becomes:

```

isFoo = true;

if (isFoo) {
    bar();
} else {
    anotherBar();
}

isBar = false;

```

**--break-blocks=all / -F**

Pad empty lines around header blocks (e.g. 'if', 'for', 'while'...). Treat closing header blocks (e.g. 'else', 'catch') as stand-alone blocks.

```

isFoo = true;
if (isFoo) {
    bar();
} else {
    anotherBar();
}
isBar = false;

```

becomes:

```

isFoo = true;

if (isFoo) {
    bar();
} else {
    anotherBar();
}

isBar = false;

```

**--pad-oper / -p**

Insert space padding around operators. This will also pad commas. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. Note that there is no option to unpad. Once padded, they stay padded.

```

if (foo==2)
    a=bar((b-c)*a,d--);

```

becomes:

```

if (foo == 2)
    a = bar((b - c) * a, d--);

```

**--pad-comma / -xg**

Insert space padding after commas. This is not needed if pad-oper is used. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. Note that there is no option to unpad. Once padded, they stay padded.

```

if (isFoo(a,b)
    bar(a,b);

```

becomes:

```

if (isFoo(a, b)
    bar(a, b);

```

**--pad-paren / -P**

Insert space padding around parens on both the **outside** and the **inside**. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible.

```
if (isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

becomes:

```
if ( isFoo ( ( a+2 ), b ) )
    bar ( a, b );
```

#### **--pad-paren-out / -d**

Insert space padding around parens on the **outside** only. Parens that are empty will not be padded. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. This can be used with unpad-paren below to remove unwanted spaces.

```
if (isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

becomes:

```
if (isFoo ( (a+2), b ) )
    bar (a, b);
```

#### **--pad-first-paren-out / -xd**

Insert space padding around the **first** paren in a series on the **outside** only. Parens that are empty will not be padded. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. This can be used with unpad-paren below to remove unwanted spaces. If used with pad-paren or pad-paren-out, this option will be ignored. If used with pad-paren-in, the result will be the same as pad-paren.

```
if (isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

becomes:

```
if (isFoo ((a+2), b))
    bar (a, b);
```

#### **--pad-paren-in / -D**

Insert space padding around paren on the **inside** only. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. This can be used with unpad-paren below to remove unwanted spaces.

```
if (isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

becomes:

```
if ( isFoo( ( a+2 ), b ) )
    bar( a, b );
```

#### **--pad-header / -H**

Insert space padding between a header (e.g. 'if', 'for', 'while'...) and the following paren. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. This can be used with unpad-paren to remove unwanted spaces.

```
if(isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

becomes:

```
if (isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

**--unpad-paren / -U**

Remove extra space padding around parens on the inside and outside. Any end of line comments will remain in the original column, if possible. This option can be used in combination with the paren padding options `pad-paren`, `pad-paren-out`, `pad-paren-in`, and `pad-header` above. Only padding that has not been requested by other options will be removed.

For example, if a source has parens padded on both the inside and outside, and you want inside only. You need to use `unpad-paren` to remove the outside padding, and `pad-paren-in` to retain the inside padding. Using only `pad-paren-in` would not remove the outside padding.

```
if ( isFoo( ( a+2 ), b ) )
    bar ( a, b );
```

becomes (with no padding option requested):

```
if(isFoo((a+2), b))
    bar(a, b);
```

**--delete-empty-lines / -xe**

Delete empty lines within a function or method. Empty lines outside of functions or methods are NOT deleted. If used with `break-blocks` or `break-blocks=all` it will delete all lines EXCEPT the lines added by the `break-blocks` options.

```
void Foo()
{
    foo1 = 1;

    foo2 = 2;

}
```

becomes:

```
void Foo()
{
    foo1 = 1;
    foo2 = 2;
}
```

**--fill-empty-lines / -E**

Fill empty lines with the white space of the previous line.

**--align-pointer=type / -k1****--align-pointer=middle / -k2****--align-pointer=name / -k3**

Attach a pointer or reference operator (`*`, `&`, or `^`) to either the variable type (left) or variable name (right), or place it between the type and name (middle). The spacing between the type and name will be preserved, if possible. This option is for C/C++, C++/CLI, and C# files. To format references separately, use the following `align-reference` option.

```
char* foo1;
char & foo2;
String ^s1;
```

becomes (with `align-pointer=type`):

```
char* foo1;
char& foo2;
String^ s1;

char* foo1;
```

```
char & foo2;
String ^s1;
```

becomes (with align-pointer=middle):

```
char * foo1;
char & foo2;
String ^ s1;

char* foo1;
char & foo2;
String ^s1;
```

becomes (with align-pointer=name):

```
char *foo1;
char &foo2;
String ^s1;
```

```
--align-reference=none / -W0
--align-reference=type / -W1
--align-reference=middle / -W2
--align-reference=name / -W3
```

This option will align references separate from pointers. Pointers are not changed by this option. If pointers and references are to be aligned the same, use the previous align-pointer option. The option align-reference=none will not change the reference alignment. The other options are the same as for align-pointer. This option is for C/C++, C++/CLI, and C# files.

```
char &foo1;
```

becomes (with align-reference=type):

```
char& foo1;
char& foo2;
```

becomes (with align-reference=middle):

```
char & foo2;
char& foo3;
```

becomes (with align-reference=name):

```
char &foo3;
```

## Formatting Options

```
--break-closing-brackets / -y
```

When used with --style=java, --style=kr, --style=stroustrup, --style=linux, or --style=1tbs, this breaks closing headers (e.g. 'else', 'catch', ...) from their immediately preceding closing brackets. Closing header brackets are always broken with the other styles.

```
void Foo(bool isFoo) {
    if (isFoo) {
        bar();
    } else {
        anotherBar();
    }
}
```

becomes (a broken 'else'):

```
void Foo(bool isFoo) {
```

```

    if (isFoo) {
        bar();
    }
    else {
        anotherBar();
    }
}

```

**--break-elseifs / -e**

Break "else if" header combinations into separate lines. This option has no effect if keep-one-line-statements is used, the "else if" statements will remain as they are.

If this option is NOT used, "else if" header combinations will be placed on a single line.

```

    if (isFoo) {
        bar();
    }
    else if (isFoo1()) {
        bar1();
    }
    else if (isFoo2()) {
        bar2();
    }
}

```

becomes:

```

    if (isFoo) {
        bar();
    }
    else
        if (isFoo1()) {
            bar1();
        }
        else
            if (isFoo2()) {
                bar2();
            }
}

```

**--break-one-line-headers / -xb**

Break one line headers (e.g. 'if', 'while', 'else', ...) from a statement residing on the same line. If the statement is enclosed in brackets, the brackets will be formatted according to the requested bracket style.

A multi-statement line will NOT be broken if keep-one-line-statements is requested. One line blocks will NOT be broken if keep-one-line-blocks is requested and the header is enclosed in the block.

```

void Foo(bool isFoo)
{
    if (isFoo1) bar1();
    if (isFoo2) { bar2(); }
}

```

becomes:

```

void Foo(bool isFoo)
{
    if (isFoo1)
        bar1();

    if (isFoo2) {
        bar2();
    }
}

```

**--add-brackets / -j**

Add brackets to unbracketed one line conditional statements (e.g. 'if', 'for', 'while'...). The statement must be on a single line. The brackets will be added according to the requested bracket style. If no style is requested the brackets will be attached.

Brackets will NOT be added to a multi-statement line if keep-one-line-statements is requested. Brackets will NOT be added to a one line block if keep-one-line-blocks is requested. If --add-one-line-brackets is also used, the result will be one line brackets.

```
if (isFoo)
    isFoo = false;
```

becomes:

```
if (isFoo) {
    isFoo = false;
}
```

**--add-one-line-brackets / -J**

Add one line brackets to unbracketed one line conditional statements (e.g. 'if', 'for', 'while'...). The statement must be on a single line. The option implies --keep-one-line-blocks and will not break the one line blocks.

```
if (isFoo)
    isFoo = false;
```

becomes:

```
if (isFoo)
    { isFoo = false; }
```

**--remove-brackets / -xj**

Remove brackets from conditional statements (e.g. 'if', 'for', 'while'...). The statement must be a single statement on a single line. If --add-brackets or --add-one-line-brackets is also used the result will be to add brackets. Brackets will not be removed from "One True Brace Style", --style=1tbs.

```
if (isFoo)
{
    isFoo = false;
}
```

becomes:

```
if (isFoo)
    isFoo = false;
```

**--keep-one-line-blocks / -0**

Don't break one-line blocks.

```
if (isFoo)
{ isFoo = false; cout << isFoo << endl; }
```

remains unchanged.

**--keep-one-line-statements / -o**

Don't break complex statements and multiple statements residing on a single line.

```
if (isFoo)
{
    isFoo = false; cout << isFoo << endl;
}
```

remains unchanged.

```
if (isFoo) DoBar();
```

remains unchanged.

#### **--convert-tabs / -c**

Converts tabs into spaces in the non-indentation part of the line. The number of spaces inserted will maintain the spacing of the tab. The current setting for spaces per tab is used. It may not produce the expected results if convert-tabs is used when changing spaces per tab. Tabs are not replaced within quotes.

#### **--close-templates / -xy**

Closes whitespace between the ending angle brackets of template definitions. Closing the ending angle brackets is now allowed by the C++11 standard. Be sure your compiler supports this before making the changes.

```
Stack< int, List< int > > stack1;
```

becomes:

```
Stack< int, List< int >> stack1;
```

#### **--remove-comment-prefix / -xp**

Remove the preceding '\*' in a multi-line comment that begins a line. A trailing '\*', if present, is also removed. Text that is less than one indent is indented to one indent. Text greater than one indent is not changed. Multi-line comments that begin a line, but without the preceding '\*', are indented to one indent for consistency. This can slightly modify the indentation of commented out blocks of code. Lines containing all '\*' are left unchanged. Extra spacing is removed from the comment close '\*/'.

```
/*
 * comment line 1
 * comment line 2
 */
```

becomes:

```
/*
  comment line 1
  comment line 2
 */
```

#### **--max-code-length=# / -xC#**

#### **--break-after-logical / -xL**

The option max-code-length will break a line if the code exceeds # characters. The valid values are 50 thru 200. Lines without logical conditionals will break on a logical conditional (||, &&, ...), comma, paren, semicolon, or space.

Some code will not be broken, such as comments, quotes, and arrays. If used with keep-one-line-blocks or add-one-line-brackets the blocks will NOT be broken. If used with keep-one-line-statements the statements will be broken at a semicolon if the line goes over the maximum length. If there is no available break point within the max code length, the line will be broken at the first available break point after the max code length.

By default logical conditionals will be placed first in the new line. The option break-after-logical will cause the logical conditionals to be placed last on the previous line. This option has no effect without max-code-length.

```
if (thisVariable1 == thatVariable1 || thisVariable2 == thatVariable2 || thisVariable3 == thatVariable3)
    bar();
```

becomes:

```
if (thisVariable1 == thatVariable1
    || thisVariable2 == thatVariable2
    || thisVariable3 == thatVariable3)
    bar();
```

becomes (with break-after-logical):

```
if (thisVariable1 == thatVariable1 ||
    thisVariable2 == thatVariable2 ||
    thisVariable3 == thatVariable3)
    bar();
```

```
--mode=c
--mode=cs
--mode=java
```

Indent a C type, C#, or Java file. C type files are C, C++, C++/CLI, and Objective-C. The option is usually set from the file extension for each file. You can override the setting with this entry. It will be used for all files, regardless of the file extension. It allows the formatter to identify language specific syntax such as C++ classes, templates, and keywords.

## Objective-C Options

These options are effective for Objective-C files only. The paren padding options will still apply to the Objective-C method prefix and return type unless overridden by the following options.

Because of the longer indents sometimes needed for Objective-C, the option "max-instatement-indent" may need to be increased. If you are not getting the paren and block paren alignment you want try increasing this value. The option is described in the "Indentation Options" section.

```
--pad-method-prefix / -xQ
```

Insert space padding **after** the '-' or '+' Objective-C method prefix. This will add exactly one space. Any additional spaces will be deleted.

```
-(void)foo1;
- (void)foo2;
```

becomes:

```
- (void)foo1;
- (void)foo2;
```

```
--unpad-method-prefix / -xR
```

Remove all space padding **after** the '-' or '+' Objective-C method prefix. This option will be ignored if used with pad-method-prefix. This option takes precedence over the pad paren outside option.

```
- (void) foo1;
- (void) foo2;
```

becomes:

```
-(void) foo1;
-(void) foo2;
```

**--pad-return-type / -xq**

Insert space padding **after** the Objective-C return type. This will add exactly one space. Any additional spaces will be deleted.

```
-(void)foo1;
-(void)  foo2;
```

becomes:

```
-(void) foo1;
-(void) foo2;
```

**--unpad-return-type / -xr**

Remove all space padding **after** the Objective-C return type. This option will be ignored if used with pad-return-type. This option takes precedence over the pad paren outside option.

```
-(void) foo1;
-(void)  foo2;
```

becomes:

```
-(void)foo1;
-(void)foo2;
```

**--pad-param-type / -xS**

Insert space padding around the Objective-C parameter type. This will add exactly one space. Any additional spaces will be deleted. This has precedence over the pad method colon option and will always cause space padding after the method colon.

```
-(void)foo1:(bool)barArg1;
-(void)foo2: (bool) barArg2;
```

becomes:

```
-(void)foo1: (bool) barArg1;
-(void)foo2: (bool) barArg2;
```

**--unpad-param-type / -xs**

Remove all space padding around the Objective-C parameter type. This option takes precedence over the pad paren outside option. The pad method colon option has precedence over the **opening** paren. The closing paren will always be unpadding.

```
-(void)foo1: (bool)  barArg1;
-(void)foo2:  (bool)  barArg2;
```

becomes (with an unpadding method colon):

```
-(void)foo1:(bool)barArg1;
-(void)foo2:(bool)barArg2;
```

becomes (with a padding method colon after):

```
-(void)foo1: (bool)barArg1;
-(void)foo2: (bool)barArg2;
```

**--align-method-colon / -xM**

Align the colons in Objective-C method declarations and method calls. If this option is not declared, method definitions will be indented uniformly, and method calls will align with the first keyword.

```

-(void)longKeyword: (ID)theArg1
    keyword: (int)theArg2
    error: (NSError*)theError
{
    [myObj longKeyword: arg1
    keyword: arg2
    error: arg3];
}

```

becomes (with no option declared):

```

-(void)longKeyword: (ID)theArg1
    keyword: (int)theArg2
    error: (NSError*)theError
{
    [myObj longKeyword: arg1
    keyword: arg2
    error: arg3];
}

```

becomes (with align-method-colon):

```

-(void)longKeyword: (ID)theArg1
    keyword: (int)theArg2
    error: (NSError*)theError
{
    [myObj longKeyword: arg1
    keyword: arg2
    error: arg3];
}

```

```

--pad-method-colon=none / -xP0
--pad-method-colon=all / -xP1
--pad-method-colon=after / -xP2
--pad-method-colon=before / -xP3

```

Add or remove space padding before or after the colons in an Objective-C method call. These options will pad exactly one space. Any additional spaces will be deleted. The space padding after the method colon can be overridden by pad-param-type.

with pad-method-colon=none:

```
-(void)insertKey:(id)key;
```

with pad-method-colon=all:

```
-(void)insertKey : (id)key;
```

with pad-method-colon=after:

```
-(void)insertKey: (id)key;
```

with pad-method-colon=before:

```
-(void)insertKey :(id)key;
```

## Other Options

These are non-formatting options available for the command-line. They can also be included in an options file.

```
--suffix####
```

Append the suffix #### instead of '.orig' to original file name (e.g. --suffix=**.bak**). If this is to be a file extension, the dot '.' must be included. Otherwise the suffix will be appended to the current file extension.

**--suffix=none / -n**

Do not retain a backup of the original file. The original file is purged after it is formatted.

**--recursive / -r / -R**

For each directory in the command line, process all subdirectories recursively. When using the recursive option the file name statement should contain a wildcard. Linux users should place the file path and name in double quotes so the shell will not resolve the wildcards (e.g. "\$HOME/src/\*.cpp"). Windows users should place the file path and name in double quotes if the path or name contains spaces.

**--dry-run**

Perform a trial run with no changes made to the files. The report will be output as usual.

**--exclude=####**

Specify a file or subdirectory #### to be excluded from processing.

Excludes are matched from the end of the file path. An exclude option of "templates" will exclude ALL directories named "templates". An exclude option of "cpp/templates" will exclude ALL "cpp/templates" directories. You may proceed backwards in the directory tree to exclude only the required directories.

Specific files may be excluded in the same manner. An exclude option of "default.cpp" will exclude ALL files named "default.cpp". An exclude option of "python/default.cpp" will exclude ALL files named "default.cpp" contained in a "python" subdirectory. You may proceed backwards in the directory tree to exclude only the required files.

Wildcards are NOT allowed. There may be more than one exclude statement. The file path and name may be placed in double quotes (e.g. --exclude="foo bar.cpp").

**--ignore-exclude-errors / -i**

Allow processing to continue if there are errors in the "exclude=####" options. This option lets the excludes for several projects be entered in a single option file. This option may be placed in the same option file as the excludes. It will display the unmatched excludes. The following option will not display the unmatched excludes.

**--ignore-exclude-errors-x / -xi**

Allow processing to continue if there are errors in the "exclude=####" options. This option lets the excludes for several projects be entered in a single option file. This option may be placed in the same option file as the excludes. It will NOT display the unmatched excludes. The preceding option will display the unmatched excludes.

**--errors-to-stdout / -X**

Print errors to standard-output rather than to standard-error. This option should be helpful for systems/shells that do not have a separate output to standard-error, such as in Windows95.

**--preserve-date / -Z**

Preserve the original file's date and time modified. The time modified will be changed a few microseconds to force the changed files to compile. This option is not effective if redirection is used to rename the input file.

**--verbose / -v**

Verbose display mode. Display optional information, such as release number, date, and statistical data.

**--formatted / -Q**

Formatted files display mode. Display only the files that have been formatted. Do not display files that are unchanged.

**--quiet / -q**

Quiet display mode. Suppress all output except error messages.

**--lineend=windows / -z1**

**--lineend=linux** / **-z2**  
**--lineend=macold** / **-z3**

Force use of the specified line end style. Valid options are windows (CRLF), linux (LF), and macold (CR). MacOld style is the format for Mac OS 9 and earlier. OS X uses the Linux style. If one of these options is not used, the line ends will be determined automatically from the input file.

When **redirection** is used on Windows the output will always have Windows line ends. This option will be ignored.

---

## Command Line Only

These options are available for the command-line only. They are NOT available in an options file.

**--options=####**

Specify an options file **####** to read and use. It must contain a file path for the file. This will allow the file name to be changed from `astylerc` or `.astylerc`.

**--options=none**

Disable the default options file. Only the command-line parameters will be used.

**--ascii** / **-I**

The displayed output will be ASCII characters only. The text will be displayed in English and numbers will not be formatted. The short option must be by itself, it cannot be concatenated with other options.

**--version** / **-V**

Print version number and quit. The short option must be by itself, it cannot be concatenated with other options.

**--help** / **-h** / **-?**

Print a help message and quit. The short option must be by itself, it cannot be concatenated with other options.

**--html** / **-!**

Open the HTML help file "astyle.html" in the default browser and quit. The short option must be by itself, it cannot be concatenated with other options. The documentation must be installed in the standard install path (`/usr/share/doc/astyle/html` for Linux or `%PROGRAMFILES%\AStyle\doc` for Windows). If installed to a different path use `html=####`.

**--html=####**

Open an HTML help file in the default browser using the file path **####** and quit. An HTML file other than "astyle.help" may be specified. The path may include a directory path and a file name, or a file name only (e.g. `html=install.html`). If only a file name is used, it is assumed to be in the standard install path (`/usr/share/doc/astyle/html` for Linux or `%PROGRAMFILES%\AStyle\doc` for Windows). In both cases the file name must include the `html` extension. File paths containing spaces must be enclosed in quotes.

On Linux the HTML file is opened using the script "xdg-open" from the install package "xdg-utils". This should be installed by default on most distributions.

Any HTML file can be opened by this option. The files you are likely to need are `astyle.html` (the default), `install.html`, and `index.html`.

