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How to migrate catalogues from ASCII to FITS format

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Q: How to convert an ascii file (table) to a fits file?

A: You can perform the following steps:

1. Create a comma separated ascii table. For example if the table (cat1.txt) has n columns separated by white spaces:

```
awk '{print $1,"",$2,"",$3,"",$4,...,"",$n-1,"",$n}' cat1.txt > cat2.txt
```

2. Convert the new table (cat2.txt) into a fits file using the **stilts** tool:

```
stilts tcopy cat2.txt cat.fits ifmt=csv ofmt=fits-basic
```

Usage:

```
stilts <stilts-flags> tcopy ifmt=<in-format> ofmt=<out-format> [in=]<table>  
[out=]<out-table>
```

3. Add the missing header keywords according to the [ESO Science Data Products Standard](#).

The STIL Tool Set can be downloaded from:

<http://www.star.bris.ac.uk/~mbt/stilts/#install>

For more information please check the following documentation:

<http://www.star.bris.ac.uk/~mbt/stilts/>

<http://www.star.bris.ac.uk/~mbt/stilts/sun256/tcopy.html>

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