

SQLITE - ALTER TABLE COMMAND

http://www.tutorialspoint.com/sqlite/sqlite_alter_command.htm

Copyright © tutorialspoint.com

The SQLite **ALTER TABLE** command modifies an existing table without performing a full dump and reload of the data. You can rename a table using ALTER TABLE statement and additional columns can be added in an existing table using ALTER TABLE statement.

There is no other operation supported by ALTER TABLE command in SQLite except renaming a table and adding a column in existing table.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of **ALTER TABLE** to RENAME an existing table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE database_name.table_name RENAME TO new_table_name;
```

The basic syntax of **ALTER TABLE** to add a new column in an existing table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE database_name.table_name ADD COLUMN column_def...;
```

Example:

Consider our [COMPANY](#) table has the following records:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY
1	Paul	32	California	20000.0
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000.0
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000.0
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000.0
5	David	27	Texas	85000.0
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000.0
7	James	24	Houston	10000.0

Now, let's try to rename this table using ALTER TABLE statement as follows:

```
sqlite> ALTER TABLE COMPANY RENAME TO OLD_COMPANY;
```

Above SQLite statement will rename COMPANY table to OLD_COMPANY. Now, let's try to add a new column in OLD_COMPANY table as follows:

```
sqlite> ALTER TABLE OLD_COMPANY ADD COLUMN SEX char(1);
```

Now, COMPANY table is changed and following would be output from SELECT statement:

ID	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SALARY	SEX
1	Paul	32	California	20000.0	
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000.0	
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000.0	
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000.0	
5	David	27	Texas	85000.0	
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000.0	
7	James	24	Houston	10000.0	

It should be noted that newly added column is filled with NULL values.