

# How to use MPlayer on the Command-line

As suggested by [kikinovak](#) as a slackdoc topic.

## What is mplayer?

Basically, mplayer is a command-line movie player packaged into most slackware installations; It happens to work like a champ with music files in addition to watching movies. Because mplayer doesn't strictly require a desktop environment to be running while playing music, it is quite light and is ideal for wimpier machines such as netbooks.

## How to invoke mplayer

Below are a couple of basic ways of calling mplayer.

```
$ mplayer ~/music/foo.mp3 # Tell mplayer to play your favourite song.
```

```
$ mplayer ~/music/*.mp3 # Tell mplayer to play all of your mp3 files under your music directory.
```

## Useful shortcut keys

While running, mplayer can be controlled by additional keyboard input.

Some simple but memorable shortcuts:

- spacebar - Toggles pause/play.
- return - Next track.
- ctrl+c - Escape/Quit.

## Gotchas

Don't accidentally hit the arrow keys while mplayer is running; It will alter the audio playback speed (quite annoying).

## Playlists

You can also tell mplayer to play tracks from a playlist.

First you need to create a playlist file.

```
$ find . -type f -iname *.mp3 > my_list.txt
```

And then you can take the playlist and feed it into mplayer.

```
$ mplayer -playlist my_list.txt
```

If you're feeling frisky, you can also tell mplayer to shuffle your playlist as well.

```
$ mplayer -shuffle -playlist my_list.txt
```

## Example Playlist Demonstration

The below terminal output demonstrates mplayer playlists in action.

```
[ roach@sepsis:msk ]$ find SchoolyardHeroes/Abominations/ -type f -iname *.mp3 > abominations.txt
[ roach@sepsis:msk ]$ mplayer -playlist abominations.txt
MPlayer 20101218-4.5.1 (C) 2000-2010 MPlayer Team

Playing SchoolyardHeroes/Abominations/04 - Violence Is All The Rage.mp3.
Audio only file format detected.
Clip info:
  Title: Violence Is All The Rage
  Artist: Schoolyard Heroes
  Album: Abominations
  Year: 2007
  Comment: Amazon.com Song ID: 20884756
  Track: 4
  Genre: Unknown
=====
Opening audio decoder: [mp3lib] MPEG layer-2, layer-3
AUDIO: 44100 Hz, 2 ch, s16le, 256.0 kbit/18.14% (ratio: 32000->176400)
Selected audio codec: [mp3] afm: mp3lib (mp3lib MPEG layer-2, layer-3)
=====
A0: [oss] 44100Hz 2ch s16le (2 bytes per sample)
Video: no video
Starting playback...
A: 20.8 (20.8) of 189.0 (03:09.0) 0.3%
```

Note: The above example's find command creates an unsorted playlist (which might not be what you're after).

[Here's a nifty article on creating sorted playlists and then some.](#)

## Sources

- Written by [aschyl](#)

[howtos](#), [software](#), [work in progress](#), [author aschyi](#)

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