

The RCS MP3 Player!



The 'Player' list and transport

Instructions:

There is nothing to install (but, QuickTime is recommended for proper operation)...just uncompress the file, and put the player anywhere you want. You will need an XSYS controller on-line to authorize...just enter your controller IP address (and a default port), and press 'Authorize!'.

*Note: To play MPEG2 files, you will need the optional MPEG2 plug-in from Apple Computer..

*Note: To playback MPEG4 files, you will need QuickTime Pro from Apple Computer.

Just 'throw' mp3 files (or folder of files) into the 'List', and press 'Play'!

Functions:

BUTTON Functions:

DEL: Deletes the currently hilited file (as long as it's not playing). The Control key is a modifier key that let's you delete ALL songs (hold the Control key while pressing the DEL key). You will be asked first if you want to "Delete ALL songs?".

* You can delete individual songs while you are playing a song (except the currently playing song...obviously).

ADD: Adds a file after any files in your list. If you hold the Control Key while you press this, you can add an entire folder of files. One word of caution...this will add ALL files in that folder! So if you have any files other than .mp3 files, you will need to delete it from the list (just select it in the list and press the DEL key). You can rearrange your songs by 'grabbing and moving' the song in the List window.

- You can add songs while you are playing songs.
- You can also drag songs or folders into the list.

OPEN: Opens any playlist that you made with this player (.lst files).

* You cannot open a file while a song is playing, but you can if it is paused.

SAVE: Saves your current list to a file of type .lst (actually a text file).

* You can save a playList while a song is playing.

LOOP: This will play the currently playing song forever (regardless of RANDOM).

RANDOM: Random song selection. The songs list will play forever because the random of the number of songs in your list is infinite. This also affects your 'Next' and 'Previous' buttons.

PLAYER: Shows/hides the player window. No matter where the window is, it will always be 'docked' back to the list window if it was hidden.

LIST: Shows/hides the list window. This too will dock the window to the player window if it was previously hidden.

SKIN: When this is hilited, the skin will change when the song changes. The arrow keys below it allow you to step through the skins...holding the arrow button will continuously change the skin. The skins are fixed (for now) but I will allow custom skins in the near future.

SONG POSITION HANDLE : Shows you the current (playing) song position, and you can drag it to any position in the song.

LOCATION BAR: You can 'scrub' the audio...give it a try! You can lock the position by holding the Control key down BEFORE you press the locator. You can reset the song speed after that by moving the mouse over the locator...it will also reset when the song changes.

MISC. BUTTONS:

At the top of each window is a button with a left arrow that will 'shrink' the window to a smaller

version of itself. Well, it actually just resizes the window, so you lose some of the controls on the right side. Pressing it again will resize it.

The button at the top of the list window that has the arrow pointing down is the 'close' button. This will quit the application (this is the only way to quit the player).

The two buttons that have arrow up and arrow down are the 'Next' and 'Previous' buttons. (These are affected by the 'Random' button.)

Start Time:

Mainly for display, you can also use this to set a start time for your track:

- Select your track, and press 'Play'.
- Using the Song position handle, find your start point.
- Press 'Pause'.
- Double click on the 'Start' field, and store the current time.
- The settings are saved when you save your playlist.
- To reset the time, simply repeat the process, but select 'Reset' from the options.

End Time:

Mainly for display, you can also use this to set a End time for your track:

- Select your track, and press 'Play'.
- Using the Song position handle, find your end point.
- Press 'Pause'.
- Double click on the 'End' field, and store the current time.
- The settings are saved when you save your playlist.
- To reset the time, simply repeat the process, but select 'Reset' from the options.

HIDDEN FEATURES:

- If you drag the Player window to the bottom of the List window, it will 'dock' itself to the bottom (when you let go), and if you drag the List window close enough to the Player (and let go) it too will 'dock' itself. Now every time you drag the List window, the Player window will follow. The lock will 'break' whenever you pull the Player window far enough away.

- By default, the Player will load the default list called "masterList.lst" if it is in the same folder as the Player application.

- The arrow keys give you some playing control, as well as list selection. The space-bar can be used to pause-play a song.

- Pressing the play button will always restart the song.



'Song Image' pop-out

- A last minute addition was the 'Song Image' feature. You can load an image for each song, and the information will be saved with your playlist. The image is a 'link' to the file on your disk, so if you move it (or delete it) the image will not be there. Also, if you load an image that is larger than the Image area, it will be resized...



'Network Controller' included with the Run Time Editor

Network Control:

Network control of the Player is possible by using the MP3 Controller that was installed with your Run Time Editor software. When you are running a control application from the RTE (Run Time Editor), your 'Dock' has an icon for opening this Controller. You can now control your RCS MP3 Player remotely over a network...the MP3 Controller acts as a remote control!

Once you are connected to the Player, the Controller will update with a list of songs that are

currently loaded. You can double-click on a line to play, or use the transport controls normally...just like on the Player. You can also change the IP 'socket' that you use for communication by using the (only) file option in the Controller.

Hints - Tips - Tricks

- You can rearrange the songs in your playlist window. Click and drag a title to another line and let go. This will move your song to that location in the list.

- Double-clicking a line will play that song.

- Clicking on the 'Rolling Name' window (when not playing) will allow you to edit the name of the song. Hit return to save.

- Sometimes a lot of activity (getting email, surfing the web, hard drive access, etc.) will cause a playing MP3 to start to 'stutter'. If it stays like this, you can press Pause, and then Pause (or Play) to play normally again. This seems to be different for each OS...

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