

# Ksmp3play 0.5.1

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Ksmp3play is an curses-based MP3 player. This allows you to control the player on another computer using telnet or ssh, which might be useful if you have an old computer dedicated for mp3 playing. Other features include song rating and volume settings for each song.

REMEMBER THAT KSMP3PLAY IS BETA SOFTWARE! IT MAY WORK POORLY, NOT WORK AT ALL, SCREW UP YOUR MP3 COLLECTION, OR EVEN DAMAGE YOUR COMPUTER! USE AT OWN RISK!

### 1.1 What's new in 0.5.1

- 3 different methods for random play
- Delay between songs can be specified
- Better command line options
- Bugfixes, e.g. the one related to deleting songs from playlist

### 1.2 What's new in 0.5

- Customizable keybindings
- File browser for adding files
- Http streaming support
- Bugfixes



## Chapter 2

# Installation

### 2.1 How to obtain Ksmp3play

Ksmp3play can be downloaded from <http://www.xanadunet.net/ksmp3play>. It is also part of Debian GNU/Linux (<http://www.debian.org>).

### 2.2 Requirements

Ksmp3play requires the following<sup>1</sup>:

- SDL 1.1.5+
- ncurses 5+
- SMPEG 0.4+

### 2.3 Compilation and installation

Ksmp3play uses the GNU autotools, which should make the installation easy. For more detailed installation instructions read the `INSTALL` file included in the package. However, for most people the following should work:

```
% ./configure
% make
% make install
```

If you encounter into problems please report them to the the author at `<ks@xanadunet.net>`.

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<sup>1</sup>Ksmp3play may compile with older versions, but this has not been tested.





## Chapter 3

# Usage

### 3.1 Command line options

Usage: ksmp3play [OPTION ...] FILE1 [FILE2 ...]

Options:

-h, --help	display this help and exit
-v, --version	output version information and exit
-r, --random	start in random play mode
-l, --loop	start in loop play mode
-t, --title	set xterm title (0/1, default=1)
-d, --delay	delay between songs (in seconds)
-m, --rmeth	method used for random play (1/2/3)
-p, --playlist	default playlist to save to

You may specify as many files as you wish at the command line. These can be either mp3, m3u, or ks3 files, or even an URL for http streaming. It's not necessary to use the `-p` option if only one ks3 file is specified, since this file will be considered the default playlist.

### 3.2 Config file

Ksmp3play looks for a dot-file in the user's home dir called `.ksmp3playrc`. The format of this file is *variable = value*, one variable on each line. Empty lines and lines beginning with `#` are ignored.

#### 3.2.1 General config variables

The general config variables you can set in the config file are:

- Random (0/1) - Start in random play mode

- Loop (0/1) - Start in loop play mode
- Volume (0-100) - Default volume
- Set\_xterm\_title (0/1) - Set xterm title to currently playing song
- Delay\_between\_songs (0-5) - How many seconds to pause between songs
- Random\_method (1-3) - Method used for random play, See ‘Why three different methods for random play?’ on page 12 for more details.

Here’s an example:

```
#
# Conf file for ksmp3play
#

# Start in random play mode (0/1)
Random = 1

# Start in loop play mode (0/1)
Loop = 1

# Set xterm title to currently playing song
Set_xterm_title = 1

# Default volume (0-100)
Volume = 80
```

### 3.2.2 Keybindings

Since version 0.5 you can bind most of the commands in ksmp3play to keys of your choice. The format is very similar to the other config variables. Here’s an example:

```
PAUSE = p
JUMP_TO_CURRENT = P
```

This will bind the key ‘p’ to the pause command and the ‘shift + p’ to jump to currently playing song. You may however want to use keys that can’t be typed as a single character. This is done by entering ‘\’ followed by the ASCII code. Here’s an example:

```
PAUSE = \32
JUMP_TO_CURRENT = \9
```

This will bind ASCII code 32 (space) to the pause command, and ASCII code 9 (tab) to jump to currently playing song.

Here's a list of the keybindings you can specify:

- JUMP\_TO\_CURRENT - Jump to the currently playing song.
- NEXT - Play the next song in playlist.
- PAUSE - Pause/Unpause
- VOLUME\_UP - Increase volume for current song.
- VOLUME\_DOWN - Decrease volume for current song.
- EDIT\_ID3 - Edit ID3 tags for currently selected (not playing) song.
- RANDOM\_MODE - Enable/disable random play mode.
- LOOP\_MODE - Enable/disable loop play mode.
- HELP - Show help screen.
- QUIT - Quit program.
- SORT\_A - Sort playlist according to Artist.
- SORT\_S - Sort playlist according to Song name.
- SORT\_T - Sort playlist according to Time.
- SORT\_R - Sort playlist according to Rating.
- DELETE - Delete song from playlist (not from disk).
- SAVE - Save the playlist.
- SEARCH - Search within the playlist.
- ADD - Add files to the playlist.
- MOVE\_UP - Move currently selected file up one row in the playlist.
- MOVE\_DOWN - Move currently selected file down one row in the playlist.

### 3.3 In-program controls

These are the default controls. The ones marked with an asterisk may be customised. See 'Keybindings' on the preceding page for more info.

### 3.3.1 Controls

- LEFT/RIGHT - Seek within song.
- UP/DOWN - Move up/down in playlist.
- PGUP/PGDN - Jump up/down in playlist.
- ENTER - Select song.
- C - Jump to the currently playing song. \*
- SPACE - Pause/unpause. \*

### 3.3.2 Song options

- 1-9 - Set rating of selected song.
- +/- - Change volume for currently playing song. \*
- E - Edit ID3 tags for selected song. \*

### 3.3.3 Playlist options

- SHIFT + A - Sort playlist according to Artist. \*
- SHIFT + S - Sort playlist according to Song name. \*
- SHIFT + T - Sort playlist according to Time. \*
- SHIFT + R - Sort playlist according to Rating. \*
- A - Add files to playlist. \*
- D - Delete song from playlist. \*
- S - Save playlist. \*
- / - Search the playlist. \*

### 3.3.4 File browser

- UP/DOWN - Navigate up/down in the current dir.
- PGUP/PGDN - Jump up/down in the current dir.
- ENTER - Change to the highlighted directory.
- LEFT - Same as hitting ENTER on '..' (cd ..).

- RIGHT - Same as hitting ENTER on a dir (cd dir).
- SPACE - Select/unselect the highlighted file.
- Q - Close the file browser and load the selected files into the playlist.

### 3.3.5 Playmodes

- R - Enable/disable random play mode. \*
- L - Enable/disable loop play mode. \*

### 3.3.6 Other

- H - Show help screen. \*
- Q - Quit. \*

## 3.4 Song ratings and volume

Ksmp3play allows you to rate the songs in a playlist with a value between 1 and 9. This affects the chance of that particular song being played in random play mode. See ‘Why three different methods for random play?’ on page 12 for more details.

The volume is individual for each song, with a default of 80 or what’s specified in the config file. This, along with the song rating, is saved in the .ks3 playlist.



## Chapter 4

# Q & A

### 4.1 How am I supposed to add files to a playlist?

You can do this from the command-line. The easiest way would be to run ksmp3play like this:

```
ksmp3play playlist.ks3 newfile1.mp3 newfile2.mp3
```

Since ksmp3play will not make duplicate entries in the playlist, you could even do this:

```
ksmp3play playlist.ks3 *mp3
```

UPDATE: Ksmp3play now includes a file browsing which gives you the ability to browse and add files within in program.

### 4.2 I've found a bug or thought of a feature). What do I do?

Send a mail to [ks@xanadunet.net](mailto:ks@xanadunet.net) with a detailed description of the problem and/or idea, or dig into the source yourself.

### 4.3 What are those .ks3 files?

Ksmp3play's own playlist files have the .ks3 extension. You will probably not be able to load these playlists in another MP3 player. The .ks3 files are organized as follows:

```
<mp3 file 1> <song rating> <volume><mp3 file 2> <song rating> <volume>
```

Ksmp3play can (at the moment) only save playlists in .ks3 format.

## 4.4 Why three different methods for random play?

The obvious answer is: “it gives you more control”. Here are explanations of the three different methods used for random play.

### 4.4.1 Method 1

This is the simplest of the three methods. It will make sure that a song with a rating of 5 will be played 5 times more often than a song with a rating of 1. A song with a rating of 6 will be played 3 times more often than a song with a rating of 2, and so on.

### 4.4.2 Method 2

This is the default method in ksmp3play. The difference compared to method 1 is that the rating will be squared before use. This means that if you have two songs, one with a rating of 6 ( $6^2 = 36$ ) and one with a rating of 4 ( $4^2 = 16$ ), the song with a rating of 6 will be played 2.25 ( $36 / 16 = 2.25$ ) times more often than the one with a rating of 4.

### 4.4.3 Method 3

Method 3 is the most advanced method. It will not only do the same as method 2, but it will also divide the rating by the length (in minutes) of the song. Let me give you an example:

Let's say you have three songs in your playlist. Two of them are 5 minutes long, and one is 10 minutes. They all have the same rating (5), so if you used method 1 or 2 they would all get played just as often (at least in the long run). Assume you listen to these three songs for one hour. That means that you have heard each song three times. However the song that's 10 minutes long would have been played for a total of 30 minutes, and the other two for 15 minutes each. That doesn't seem quite right since they all have the same rating. The answer to this is to compensate for the song length.

If you use method 3 instead of method 2, the total, or final, rating of the song that's 10 minutes would be 2.5 ( $\text{rating}^2 / \text{time} = 5^2 / 10 = 2.5$ ) and the total rating of the 5-minute songs would be 5 ( $5^2 / 5 = 5$ ). This means that if you listen to these songs for one hour, they would be played for a total of 20 minutes each.

## 4.5 Why the name ksmp3play?

Well, KS are my initials, and mp3play I think is pretty obvious.