

Smart Audio Playlists

User Guide

Home: www.smartplugins.info/plugin/wordpress/smart-audio-playlists

Home: codecanyon.net/item/smart-audio-playlists/7654919

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Description

Smart Audio Playlists implements advanced audio playlists feature in WordPress using custom post types and custom taxonomies, with support for HTML5 Audio tag and fallback controlled using MediaElement.js. Plugin is made for WordPress 3.8/3.9 to take advantage of latest MediaElement.js, latest media manager features and support for importing and processing MP3 files.

Plugin implements editor for playlists, archives, archives based on Genre, Artist or Tag, archives based on dates, archived list of terms for Genres, Artists or Tags. Plugin comes with multiple playlists styles, multiple skins for player control, multiple templates for single playlist, archives and terms index. Plugin has pre-built templates for many themes, with generic templates that can be easily adapted to fit any theme. Plugin has a widget for listing playlists and widget to display any playlist player (and it has shortcode for that too). Other notable features include: special rewrite rules for playlists archives, index for terms for all 3 taxonomies, custom templates loading override and much more.

Plugin has powerful playtime logging feature that can capture very accurate time each playlist and each track in playlist played. You can add audio files through media manager (upload them to your website), or you can add remote files through custom URL.

Plugin can't work with WordPress before WP 3.8 and it will not activate on older WordPress versions. Features plugin depends on are available in WP 3.8 and newer. For best results, it is recommended to use WordPress 3.9 or newer.

System Requirements

Server:

- Plugin requires WordPress 3.8 or newer to work.
- Plugin requires PHP 5.2.4, same as WordPress 3.8.

HTML5 Audio:

- For browsers with HTML5 Audio support, plugin uses AUDIO tag
- For browsers with no HTML5 Audio support, plugin uses Flash/Silverlight fall back

Mobile and Desktop Browsers:

- Browser needs support for JavaScript, and JavaScript needs to be enabled.

Desktop Browsers:

- Works with all major browsers.

Mobile Browsers:

- All Windows, Android and iOS based devices and their browser with JavaScript/jQuery support will work fine.
- Other platforms with JavaScript and CSS3 support will work also.

Installation

1. Upload the **smart-audio-playlists** folder to your **wp-content/plugins** directory.
2. Login to your website administration, go to the **Plugins** Panel and activate **Smart Audio Playlists** plugin.
3. Main plugin settings are available via **Settings => Smart Audio Playlists** Panel.
4. Plugin adds **Playlists** admin menu item with controls for playlists, terms and plugin settings.

FAQ

Does plugin works with WordPress MultiSite installations?

Yes. Each website in network can activate and use plugin on it's on.

Can I translate plugin to my language?

Yes. POT file is provided as a base for translation. Translation files should go into Languages directory.

Video Tutorials

Currently available videos for this plugin:

- Plugin Introduction:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkRU5fvuk8>
- Theme Templates & Customization:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6AMziB4qfw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU93Y84Y3Zo>

It is highly recommended to watch all 3 videos to get better understanding on how the plugin works and what can be done with it.

Playlists Editor

When you need to add new list, or you edit existing playlist, editor will look like the example on the image. All major elements are noted on the image.

The screenshot shows the 'Playlists Editor' interface for a playlist titled 'Heaven & Hell - The Devil You Know'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Standard Title for Playlist:** The title 'Heaven & Hell - The Devil You Know' is at the top.
- Playlist Tracks:** A list of tracks with columns for Title, Artist, Album, Genre, and Year. Each track has a 'Remove Track' button and a thumbnail image.
- Playlist Information:** Fields for Artist Name, Album Name, Type, Edition, Release Date, and Classification.
- Playlist Settings:** Checkboxes for 'Show Tracks Download Links', 'Show Tracks Thumbnails', 'Show Tracks Numbers', 'Show Tracks Statistics', 'Show Playlist Description / About', and 'Show Playlist Statistics'.
- Playlist Statistics:** A summary of playlist usage, including 'Total Played', 'Played This Week', 'Played This Month', and 'Last Played'.
- Featured Image:** A large image representing the playlist cover.
- Publish:** Fields for 'Status', 'Visibility', and 'Published on' date.
- Tags:** A list of tags used to describe the playlist content.
- Genres:** A list of genres for the playlist.
- Artists:** A list of artists for the playlist.
- Playlist Heading:** A rich text editor for the playlist heading.
- Playlist Description:** A rich text editor for the playlist description.

Handwritten annotations provide additional context:

- Upload File (local) or add remote File:** Points to the 'Add Tracks' button.
- Generate data based on tracks info:** Points to the 'Automatic' button.
- Remove all tracks from playlist:** Points to the 'Remove Track' button.
- Each Track Can Have Image, auto loaded from file or click on it and select another image:** Points to the track thumbnail.
- Remove each track:** Points to the 'Remove Track' button.
- Information related to whole playlist, with release date and classification:** Points to the 'Playlist Information' section.
- This is used to control what elements in playlists are displayed for tracks and for whole playlist:** Points to the 'Playlist Settings' section.
- Plugin stores basic statistical information about number of times playlist is loaded:** Points to the 'Playlist Statistics' section.
- This is cover image for the playlist:** Points to the 'Featured Image' section.
- All sorts of tags to describe content of the playlist:** Points to the 'Tags' section.
- One or more genres for this playlists:** Points to the 'Genres' section.
- Artist name for the playlist. You can add multiple artists or authors if needed:** Points to the 'Artists' section.
- This is extra content that is used in the head area of the playlist. It can be used to add links, copyright info, or whatever you want:** Points to the 'Playlist Heading' section.
- This is standard content for the Post and you can use it to add information about playlist, review or anything you need. You don't have to use it, if you don't need to:** Points to the 'Playlist Description' section.

Track list has two types of track elements. First one is empty on this image, and it is for remote auto track, and you need to provide URL to that file and time length. For this type of track you need to set image if you want to use it.

Playlist on frontend shows track images, but it is not required and it can be disabled. Tracks list supports rearranging using drag'n'drop.

Introduction video, shows how these all work, and you should also watch that video. Link to the video is at the top of this document.

Limitations in WordPress 3.8

There are two limitations with WordPress 3.8 editor:

- When adding tracks to playlist, in WordPress 3.8, only track name will be filled. Other data you need to fill on your own. In WordPress 3.9 these are filled automatically.
- When adding tracks to playlist, in WordPress 3.8, image will not be automatically included. In WordPress 3.9 this will work.

Recommendations

Here are few things you should know.

- All templates are made to use Featured Image (Cover) for Playlists. You should set Featured image for each playlist. It should be at least 300x300 px and should be squared shape (any shape is OK, but you might need to adjust styles a bit).
- Playlist Information meta box has settings for Release date. If you leave Month and Day as 0, plugin will show year only. If you use year and month, that will be displayed, without day.
- Fill in all available fields for both Playlist and individual tracks. This will ensure that Playlist page is filled with data as intended.

Supported Audio File Types

Supported file types depend on the browser. Not all browsers have same support for HTML5 AUDIO tag implementation. To remedy that, plugin uses MediaElement.js library to fall back to Flash and Silverlight for unsupported file types.

Desktop Browsers

Support for different formats changes with different browser versions. So, this list is for latest browsers in use currently. Some older browsers will fall back for some file types.

Chrome

Supports everything: MP3, OGG, WAV, AAC.

Firefox

Supports everything: MP3, OGG, WAV, ACC. MP3 support is added with Firefox in version 25.0. Older versions will play MP3 using fallback Flash.

MS Internet Explorer

Supports HTML5 Audio tag since 9.0 and plays: MP3 and AAC. For other formats, fallbacks to Flash and Silverlight.

Safari

Supports MP3, WAV and AAC. OGG will not work on MacOS, but it will on Windows if codec is present. In any case, OGG is a problem with Safari.

Opera

Version 12 supports OGG and WAV. New versions since 15 support everything Chrome supports.

Mobile Browsers

In most cases, support for different audio formats depend on the device, and even the same OS doesn't mean that same audio files will work. All mobile devices using Android 2.3 and newer or iOS support HTML5 Audio and play most of the formats.

Android devices can support different formats for Audio tag. iOS and Blackberry devices support MP3 and AAC.

What format to use?

To attempt using direct HTML5 Audio without fallback, best format to use is MP3, it works almost everywhere. For old browsers, fall back will be used in any case.

Using Audio Files

You can add files via remote URL (you have files on Amazon S3 or some other remote locations) or you can upload them to your website.

Remote Files

For each file you need exact URL to the audio file (it can't be page where the file is, it has to be URL to the file). And you need to fill manually all the data for that file: artist, title, album, year and genre. But, you also need to fill the time length of that file.

Local/Uploaded Files

If you upload files to your website, depending on the file type, WordPress will parse these files and get information from them. This gives best results for MP3 files, and if present, plugin can load image, title, artist and all sorts of other information from each file. To make the best of it, you can use various programs for Windows or other OS systems to format your MP3 files and add all the data needed first. This information is stored in so called MP3 ID3 Tags, and can even hold image. To get program for your OS that can do this, search the Internet for **MP3 ID3 Tags Editor** and you will find hundreds of them (most of them free). When the files you upload are properly tagged, when you upload them, WordPress will pick up all relevant information and it will fill the tracks info automatically.

How the plugins works?

Plugin registers new custom post type: Playlist. And, it registers one more custom post type that is set as hidden (Track). And, we have two new custom taxonomies assigned to Playlist: Genre and Artist. Also, Playlists use Tags taxonomy. When you create new Playlist, you will see modified Post editor, and on top you have Tracks editor. There are two text editors: one is for Playlist description (review, general information, whatever you want really) and another called Heading. This Heading block is created for adding links or some other things that will be displayed in the head area of the Playlist page in frontend. In the sidebar there are several new meta boxes: Settings, Playlist Information and Statistics. And you have standard meta boxes for terms: tags, artists and genres.

Default Plugin Settings

Plugin settings are split into several panels.

Settings

These are main settings related styles and displayed elements on the Playlists pages. You can set style for the Playlist Player, and select skin for the Player control. You can also force hiding of the Playlist and Track statistics from the page. If these options are disabled (no forced hiding), each Playlist settings have control over these.

For player control you can set initial volume and you have options to force use of device native players (for iPad, iPhone and Android). These controls might not work on all devices, and they can't be styles or controlled. But if you prefer them, you can use these, otherwise, it is not recommended to use them.

You can disable some of the player controls (duration, current time...). Because of the bug in MediaElement, if the progress bar is last control it will be rendered outside of the player control. If that is the case, plugin will move some of the controls to prevent this.

Theme

Plugin requires integration with the theme you are using. But, there are many things you can control from this panel to make theme integration more comfortable. For plugin to work, you need to add templates to your theme (more on that in next chapter). But, plugin comes with library of templates made for some themes, so plugin can automatically detect such theme and load files for it. If you use WordPress own Twenty series of themes, they will work with this plugin with no modifications to the theme. Full list of directly included themes (and this list will grow with every new version) is in the **Themes Customization Guide PDF**.

First option on the Theme panel is to enable loading override for templates. If WordPress wants to load template related to the plugin, plugin can take over and check if current theme has own templates in the theme own folder and load it. If not, it will check if theme is directly included in plugin and load templates for it. If not it will load generic templates.

Next you need to set each type of the theme templates plugin uses. There are 3 types of templates: Single, Archive and Index. For each one you can set default loop element and decide if the title will be displayed by the template or not. Finally, you have options for loading CSS files used by the plugin.

You can also set number of playlists to show on each archive page.

Advanced

These settings deal with the post types and taxonomies added by the plugin, and unless you need to, do not change any settings here. Here you can change labels and slugs (for URL) for post types and taxonomies. Slugs must be URL safe (only lower later letters and numbers, standard alphabet with dashes, no spaces). Make changes to slugs without understanding the way it works can break your website.

Good reason to make changes are:

- **Translation of type and taxonomies to other language:** change labels, but be careful with slugs.
- **Disable taxonomies you don't want to use with Playlists:** use checkboxes to disable what you don't want to use.

Playtime Log

Every time a playlist player is displayed, it logs new play session, and for that session in captures number of tracks played, total time each track is played (and how many times) and total time playlist played (and how many tracks in total). All this is done through AJAX, sending short pieces of data to server.

To see this log, plugin has new panel for this. It shows playlists playlog, and for each one you have option to open popup with tracks in that playlists log.

Limitations

There are few things to know:

- In some older browsers, playtime can be logged invalid due to the lack of some page control features. Browser know for this is Opera before version 15.0.
- It can happen some AJAX requests for sending log data fail (bad internet connection) and some events might end up not logged.

Widgets

Plugin has 2 widgets.

Playlists List

With this widget you can display list of playlists. You can limit its number and change sorting and template used to display this list.

Playlist Player

You can embed playlist player into sidebar and set various settings to make playlist fit better into the sidebar.

Shortcodes

Plugin has 1 shortcode.

Playlist Player

To embed playlist player control into any post, you can use shortcode: **saplist**. This shortcode has several parameters:

- **id**: playlist ID. ID's of the playlists you can find on the admin side Playlists page. If not set, or set to 0, it will show random playlists.
- **link**: show link that will open full playlists page. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: **1**.
- **width**: you can specify width for the playlist. It can be in pixels or percentages.
- **align**: alignment of the list. It can be: none, center, left and right. Default: **none**.
- **autoplay**: enable autoplay of the playlist on page load. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: **0**.
- **volume**: initial volume. Range from 0 to 100. Default: **100**.
- **hidden**: tracklists hiding. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: **0**.
- **metadata**: show meta data and thumb above the player control. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: **0** or whatever is set in plugin settings.
- **style**: style for playlist. Default: same as the settings default.
- **skin**: skin for the player. Default: same as the settings default.
- **player_current**: show or hide player current time. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: same as the settings default.
- **player_progress**: show or hide player progress bar. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: same as the settings default.
- **player_duration**: show or hide player track duration. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: same as the settings default.
- **player_volume**: show or hide player volume. Values can be 1 or 0. Default: same as the settings default.

Examples:

```
[saplist id=15 width="60%" align="right" autoplay=1 volume=70]
[saplist id=18 width="400px" align="left" autoplay=1 skin="mejskin"]
[saplist width="400px" align="center" hidden=1]
```

Styles

Allowed style value:

- sap-player-light
- sap-player-dark
- sap-player-light-red
- sap-player-flat-light
- sap-player-flat-dark
- sap-player-flat-red
- sap-player-flat-blue
- sap-player-flat-yellow

Skins

Allowed skin values:

- default
- mejskin

Themes Support

This is most tricky part of the plugin, since it requires integration with theme. To display content related to post types or taxonomies, theme needs templates for these new data types. To make things worse, there is no single way to generate templates, and every theme has different HTML layout for templates. So, you can't just have plugin load generic template and expect to work with every theme, that simply won't work. You need to add templates this plugin needs to your theme, based on your theme.

- Themes need to have support for custom post types and custom taxonomies specific templates. All themes released in the past two years should be OK, and should work.
- For most themes you need to adjust templates needed based on the generic templates provided with plugin. To do this, detailed information is in **Themes Customization Guide PDF** file.
- If you use theme that has no templates, but employs editors for templates, you need to consult **Themes Customization Guide PDF** to see what you need to include in templates for post type.
- Plugin adds one new template type not available in WordPress. If you use templates editor based theme (with no template files), you will have problem implementing this feature and you can't use that feature: Index page with list of all terms in taxonomy. This page lists all available Genres for Genre taxonomy, all Artists in Artist taxonomy. WordPress doesn't recognize this type of page, and in this case it is fully implemented by this plugin.
- Plugin comes with direct support and templates for several themes including all WordPress Twenty themes serie.
- Plugin comes with generic templates. You can use directly supported theme templates and generic templates as examples and starting point to create your own templates.
- Plugin has default styling that fits well with most themes, and it is fully responsive. If you need, you can make changes you need. **Themes Customization Guide PDF** also has information about this.

When you install the plugin, check **Themes Customization Guide PDF** to learn how to make templates for your theme to ensure best results.

Structure of Pages and Archives

Main element for the plugin is a Playlist. Each playlist gets own page. Page URL for a single playlist is in this format:

`http://www.example.com/playlist name-of-the-playlist/`

To display single playlist, plugin relies on the template file called: **single-sapplaylist.php**. Highlighted element is a slug for the single playlist. Main archive with all playlists is on the URL like these:

`http://www.example.com/playlists`
`http://www.example.com/playlists page/page-number/`

Since plugin employs use of 3 taxonomies, they can be used to filter down playlists that contain that term. So, to filter list by specific tag, genre or artist, here is the list of example URL's for normal and paged lists:

`http://www.example.com/playlists ag tag-name/`
`http://www.example.com/playlists ag tag-name/page/page-number/`
`http://www.example.com/playlists enre genre-name/`
`http://www.example.com/playlists enre genre-name/page/page-number/`
`http://www.example.com/playlists rtist artist-name/`
`http://www.example.com/playlists rtist artist-name/page/page-number/`

All archives pages (normal and filtered by term) use same **archive-sapplaylist.php** template. If you need to list all tags, all genres or all artists assigned to playlists, you can display their index pages like this:

`http://www.example.com/playlists ags`
`http://www.example.com/playlists enres/`
`http://www.example.com/playlists rtists/`

This index setup is not normal WordPress feature, and it is implemented by the plugin. Template used for this is file: **taxindex-sapplaylist.php**.

To change slugs used for playlists and taxonomies (all highlighted text in URL's) can be done via Advanced settings page. But, be careful with these settings.

Important Information

Plugin uses some advanced techniques in implementing post types and taxonomies. Because of that, you need to know some things about the way it works.

- Plugin is not only registering post types and taxonomies, it overrides rules in WordPress for URL rewriting for permalinks. Plugin adds extra rules for many things: date based archives for playlists (custom post types in WordPress don't have that), intersection between terms and playlists for archives of playlists.
- Do not use Genre and Artist taxonomies implemented by this plugin for other post types. Plugin adds custom rewrite rules for those, and if you attempt to use it out of Playlists, it will still generate links related to playlists for all terms in Genres and Artists.
- Plugin expands rewrite rules for Tags to allow intersection for filtering purposes with Playlists. This doesn't affect normal use of Tags.
- Options to enable native device controls for iPad, iPhone and Android devices are not

supported, and it is not recommended to use them at all.

Troubleshooting

Here are some common issues you might encounter when using this plugin, mostly related to your website or server setup.

1. When viewing the page on mobile device, Player controls are not visible (Play button is not displayed, but hidden).

Most mobile devices support SVG to use for images graphics (high resolution), and plugin will server such file for those devices. But, in some cases your server is not set to server SVG files with proper type and encoding. To fix this, you need to edit your website .htaccess file (if you use Apache based web server), and add these two lines to it:

```
AddType image/svg+xml svg svgz
AddEncoding gzip svgz
```

If you use some other web server that doesn't support .htaccess file, you must consult with your hosting company to enable proper encoding when serving SVG files.

2. I use local/uploaded audio files. But, when I tried to play them in browser that doesn't work.

This is again problem with files MIME type recognized by browser. Here is the code you need to add to your .htaccess file for various audio file types

```
AddType audio/mpeg mp3
AddType audio/ogg ogg
AddType audio/ogg oga
AddType audio/wav wav
```

3. On my mobile device I don't see controls to adjust volume.

This is normal behavior, since all mobile devices have volume control on the device (left or right side), so you control the volume from there.

4. I have installed plugin, but I don't see Featured Image on Playlists editor.

This is caused by the theme. Theme needs to support Post Thumbnail feature for this to work. Contact theme author to include this feature in the theme. And you can read more on the subject here: http://codex.wordpress.org/Post_Thumbnails

As a method to go over this problem, plugin has option to force registration of post thumbnails (Advanced panel). Preferred method to do this is the theme, use this only as a temporary measure until your theme doesn't register post_thumbnails support.