

# Snap User Manual

Snap is a music library program that built around a Tagging system that allows you to search for tracks in terms of the qualities they have. Instead of relying on dropping music into playlists or folders, you can describe tracks via Tags. Once Tagged, you can find your tracks as you need them when you look for music with particular attributes. The attributes you search for can be as specific or general as your needs. This means, for example, you could search for all of your rock songs, or all of your rock songs with female vocals that are in the key of G.

## Usage Example

Before going into greater depth in this manual, you may read through this usage example to get a rundown of Snap's most important features.

*Steve is preparing for a radio show where he plans to play some energetic House music. He's mostly looking to play new tracks, but he knows there are plenty of old tracks he might want to play as well, and his iTunes playlists have grown far too unwieldy to find everything. He's got a good starting point with two playlists and decides to move over to using Snap.*

*In iTunes, Steve exports his 'Jackin' and 'Future' playlists to .m3u files. In Snap, he clicks the "Import Playlist" button and selects each .m3u playlist in turn. Snap imports any of the tracks from the playlists that were not already in the library. Additionally, all of the tracks in each of the playlists are given a matching playlist Tag--'list:Jackin' or 'list:Future.' These new Tags are automatically saved under Saved Playlists in the left panel.*

*Steve clicks on 'list:Future,' which updates the middle panel. A 'list:Future' button appears under the search bar, indicating that all of the tracks currently displayed share the 'list:Future' Tag. He clicks this button to edit the attributes of the Tag, renaming it simply 'Future.' He also decides that since Future is a subgenre of House, he will add the 'House' tag as a parent of 'Future'. This means that anytime he searches for 'House,' in addition to any tracks directly Tagged as such, he will also find any tracks tagged 'Future.' Since Future House tends to be energetic music, he also adds the tag 'Energetic' as a parent.*

*Once finished with 'Future,' Steve moves to 'list:Jackin,' similarly renaming it 'Jackin' and specifying that it is a subgenre of 'House'.*

*He knows that many of his Jackin tracks are energetic but not all. He clicks on one of the Tracks to select it and clicks the play button in the top left in order to review it. When selected, all of the Tags for that track appear in the Details panel to the right. Steve sees that it does not currently have the 'Energetic' Tag but he decides that it should. He types 'Energetic' into the field at the bottom of the Details panel and clicks to add the Tag to the track. He combs through the rest of the list, adding any Tags he thinks are missing that he might want to search for later, anything from qualities of sound design to noting a track's key.*

*Now Steve clears the search bar and types in "Energetic House" before hitting enter, finding all of the tracks in Steve's library that have both the 'Energetic' and 'House' Tags (or any child Tags). This means*

*all of the 'Future' tracks, as well as any of the 'Jackin' tracked tagged 'Energetic' are displayed, in addition to any other 'Energetic' 'House' tracks he's previously tagged.*

*While pleased with this selection, Steve realizes many of the tracks are not appropriate for the radio. Luckily, he had tagged those tracks with the tag 'Explicit.' To exclude those tracks from the list, he appends his search phrase to now search for "Energetic House -Explicit."*

*Steve decides he'd like mix in some acapellas during his set, and would like to include those in the list, so he makes a further change to his search, settling on "Energetic House -Explicit or Acapella". This final list includes all tracks that are 'Energetic' as well as 'House,' but are not 'Explicit,' and also includes all tracks that are 'Acapella.'*

*Satisfied, Steve decides to save this list, clicking the Save Playlist button under the search bar. This saves the particular combination of Tags under Saved Playlists to the left. However, this does not just save the tracks that currently demonstrate that combination, and instead the list of tracks will update as the library is updated. Steve realizes he accidentally tagged a track as 'Energetic' that should not have been. He selects the track, and right clicks 'Energetic' in the Details panel, and selects to delete the Tag from the track, which will no longer display in the saved list.*

*Before his gig, Steve exports the saved list as a .m3u playlist. He right clicks the listed under "Saved Playlists" and selects export. In the dialogue that opens he saves his list as "Radio Ready." He opens Virtual DJ and under playlists he finds "Radio Ready" with all of the tracks he has been working with.*

## Importing Music

Snap supports importing .mp3 audio files. Files may be imported by directly specifying their location, or by importing an .m3u playlist.

In order to directly import .mp3 files, click the "Import Tracks" button at the top of the middle panel. Navigate to the location of your files. You may either directly select which files you wish to import, or select a folder to import all .mp3s contained.

To import tracks from a playlist, click the "Import Playlist" button in the left panel. In the dialogue, browse to a .m3u file to select it for importing. Any tracks in the playlist not already in your library will be imported. All of the tracks will be given the Tag 'list:[PlaylistFileName]' and will be saved under Saved Playlists.

## The Song List

The middle panel displays the current song list, displaying the name, artist, album, and date/time added of each track. Clicking on a column will sort the list by that field.

Clicking on a track will select it. Control clicking a track will add the track to the selection. Shift clicking a track will add a range of tracks to the selection.

If the Song List is displaying Tracks of a specific Tag criteria, those Tags will appear under the Search Bar. Pressing the “X” button will reset the Song List to display the entire library.

## Playback

When a track is selected, press the triangular play/pause button in the top left to begin playback. The playback panel will display the name and artist of the track, as well as its length and current time. Click and drag the playback bar to seek through the track. Click and drag the volume bar to adjust the volume. Clicking the play/pause button while playing will pause. Pressing the square stop button will stop playback.

## Adding and Removing Tags

When a number of tags are selected, any tag shared by every member of the current selection will be displayed in the right panel under Details. If a single track is selected, all of the tracks tags will be displayed.

To add a Tag, enter the name of the Tag into bottom field of the Details panel and then click the “+” button or press enter. If a Tag with that name exists, it will be added to every member of the selection. If it does exist, it will be created and added if it has a valid name. Tag names must not include any white space, may not start with “-”, and may not be the word “or.” Tag names are not case sensitive.

To delete a Tag from the selected tracks, right click it in the Details panel and select “Delete.”

## Editing Tags and Adding Parents

To edit a Tag, double click it when displayed in the Details panel, or single click it if displayed under the Search Bar. This will open the Edit Tag window. To rename a Tag, change the name field before clicking OK.

A Tag may have Parent Tags which indicates a relationship between them useful for things like subgenres. It can be helpful to think a Tag with a Parent as saying that the Tag is a *type of* the Parent, or that the Tag implies whatever attribute the Parent represents. For example, you might make ‘Metal’ a parent of ‘Thrash’ to indicate Thrash as a sub-genre. You might also make ‘Guitar’ a parent to record the idea that Thrash includes guitars by nature. Functionally, searching for a Parent also gives any Child Tags. So if in the aforementioned example you searched for ‘Metal’ you would also find tracks tagged ‘Thrash’ even if not explicitly tagged as ‘Metal.’

You may add a parent to a Tag by filling in the field with a Tag name in the Edit Tag window. If this Tag does not already exist it will be created. You may double click a parent to remove that

connection. Tags may have any number of Parents and Children, and this hierarchy can have any number of layers. If a loop is created, all Tags in the loop essentially become synonymous terms.

## Searching

Searching is used to find all tracks in the library that have certain Tags. In order to search, enter your search terms into the Search Bar in the top center of the window and either click “Search” or press enter. The search terms indicate that the found tracks must or must not have particular Tags, depending on how the search terms are written.

To specify Tags that the resulting tracks must have, type the name of the Tag separated by whitespace from other search terms. E.g. searching for “A B” will find all tracks with *both* the ‘A’ and ‘B’ tags.

To specify Tags that the resulting tracks must not have, include a ‘-’ before the Tag name. E.g. searching for “A -B” will find all tracks that are tagged ‘A’ but are not tagged ‘B’.

To specify alternative requirements, separate combinations of terms with the keyword “or.” E.g. searching for “A or B” will find all tracks that are either tagged with ‘A’ or ‘B’.

Searches may include an indefinite number of terms. Searching for “A B or C -A” will find all tracks tagged with both ‘A’ and ‘B’ as well tracks tagged with ‘C’ but not ‘A’.

Remember that tracks tagged with a child will be found when looking for the Parent, even in the case of Tags being excluded.

## Saving Searches

After a search has been performed, you may click the Save Playlist button in order to save the terms of the search to the Saved Playlists section of the left panel. Now the search can be performed simply by clicking on it under Saved Playlists, and will update as new tracks fulfill the terms.

To remove a saved search, right click it and select Delete.

## Exporting Playlists

If you have saved a search, you can export the results of the search as an .m3u playlist. To do so, right click on the search under Saved Playlists and select Export. Select the name for the file and the location where you would like to save it. If you have Virtual DJ installed, the save location will default to Virtual DJ’s playlists folder, allowing easy integration between the two pieces of software.