

The `<audio>` element

INTRODUCTION

HTML5 audio is composed of several layers:

- **The `<audio>` element** is useful for embedding an audio player into a Web page. It is dedicated for streamed audio. It is very similar to the `<video>` element, both in its use and in its API.
- The **"Web Audio API"** is designed for musical applications and for adding sound effects to games. This pure JavaScript API supports manipulation of sound samples (loops, etc.), music synthesis and sound generation (oscillators, etc.). It also comes with a set of predefined sound processing modules (reverb, delay, etc.).

This course will focus on the `<audio>` element. Check back soon for an "advanced HTML5" course, soon available on W3Cx, which will cover [the Web Audio API](#) and other advanced parts of HTML5.

The attributes, event set and JavaScript API of the `<audio>` element are just a "reduced" version of the ones from the `<video>` element, and here we will only address the differences and peculiarities.

THE `<AUDIO>` ELEMENT, BASIC USAGE

The most simple basic example

[Online example from JS Bin](#)

Press play to stream the neigh of a horse:



As you can see, the code is very similar to the basic `<video>` element usage.

```
<html lang="en">
<body>
  <audio controls="controls">
    <source src="https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/1631516/horse.ogg"
      type="audio/ogg" />
    <source src="https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/1631516/horse.mp3"
      type="audio/mp3" />
```

Your browser does not support the audio element.

Download the audio/video in

```
<a href="https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/1631516/horse.ogg">OGG</a>
```

```
or <a href="https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/1631516/horse.mp3">MP3</a>
```

```
format.
```

```
</audio>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

Just as for the `<video>` element, in this example we used the `controls` attribute in order to render the play/stop, time, volume and progress widgets.

Notice the other similarities: between the `<audio>...</audio>` tags, we added a text message that is displayed if the Web browser doesn't support the `<audio>` element, and we used several `<source>...</source>` elements that link to different audio formats for the same file. The browser will use the first format it recognizes.

Lines 8 - 12: we propose to download the audio files in case the browser does not support the `<audio>` element. This is also a good practice!