

with our Mac OS X tips and tricks

Home (/) / Software (/Category/Software/)

## Replace the volume changing sound

By [Rob Griffiths \(/author/Rob-Griffiths/\)](#), Macworld

Apr 6, 2007 12:00 AM

When you use the volume up and down keys on your keyboard, your Mac emits a slight “click” sound to let you know you’ve pressed the key. You can silence this permanently in System Preferences -> Sound -> Sound Effects by unchecking the “Play feedback when volume is changed” option. Alternatively, as explained in [this hint](#) (<http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/macosexhints/2005/10/silencechange/index.php>), you can temporarily silence it by holding down the Shift key while pressing the volume changing keys. But what if you like the sound, but you’d rather have it be something other than that clicking noise?

With a quick trip to Terminal, it’s fairly easy to replace the volume changing sound with one of your own choice. Note that you can do this in the Finder, but it requires modifying the permissions on a file (or folder)—and since it’s Geeky Friday anyway, I chose to show the Terminal solution. Start by finding a sound you want to use—it should be very short, and must be in AIFF format. (iTunes, or any one of a number of programs, can be used to convert sounds to AIFF format if need be.) Put the file on your Desktop for easy access.

Open Terminal, and navigate into the folder that contains the volume changing click noise:

```
cd /System/Library/LoginPlugins/BezelServices.loginPlugin/Contents/Resources
```

If you then do an `ls`, you’ll see a file named `volume.aiff`. That’s the file you need to replace with the sound you’d like to use. First, though, create a backup of the original:

```
sudo cp volume.aiff volume_backup.aiff
```

Provide your password when prompted, and you now have a backup copy of the original file, in case you want to revert your changes at some point. Now all you need to do is copy in the sound file you found earlier, and placed on your Desktop:

```
sudo cp "~/Desktop/mysound.aiff" volume.aiff
```

Replace `mysound.aiff` with the name of your actual sound file, of course. When you're done, if you do an `ls -al`, you'll see `volume.aiff` (your new sound file) and `volume_backup.aiff` (the original). Because you used Terminal, you shouldn't have to worry about permissions—note that both `volume` files show identical permissions in the directory listing you just ran.

The last step is to restart—after that, your new sound effect should be heard whenever you change the volume via the keyboard. If you ever tire of your new sound, just open Terminal again, `cd` to the same directory as before, and then run this command:

```
sudo cp volume_backup.aiff volume.aiff
```

Restart again, and all should be back to normal. As with any hint that modifies your file system, however, there is no warranty expressed or implied—this particular tip hasn't given me any trouble, but there's always the chance for a minor disaster when you're modifying files in system folders.

[OS X \(/Category/Os-X/\)](#)   [Apps \(/Category/Mac-Apps/\)](#)   [Macs \(/Category/Macs/\)](#)

---

## [\\_utm\\_content=ab\\_alternating-thumbnails-a\\_abp-sc:Below Article Thumbnails:\)](#) [\\_utm\\_content=ab\\_alternating-thumbnails-a\\_abp-sc:Below Article Thumbnails:\)](#) **YOU MAY LIKE**

[http://www.nextadvisor.com/blog/2015/01/02/chase-slate-best-bet-for-balance-transfers/?kw=tbla\\_dsk\\_chsltvs2-13&site=idg-macworld](http://www.nextadvisor.com/blog/2015/01/02/chase-slate-best-bet-for-balance-transfers/?kw=tbla_dsk_chsltvs2-13&site=idg-macworld)

This one reason alone makes a balance transfer look like a good idea  
NextAdvisor

[http://www.nextadvisor.com/blog/2015/01/02/chase-slate-best-bet-for-balance-transfers/?kw=tbla\\_dsk\\_chsltvs2-13&site=idg-macworld](http://www.nextadvisor.com/blog/2015/01/02/chase-slate-best-bet-for-balance-transfers/?kw=tbla_dsk_chsltvs2-13&site=idg-macworld)

<http://www.fool.com/mms/mark/video-wearable/?>

[utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=contentmarketing&utm\\_campaign=wearable\\_straightsale&source=erbtabimu0860042](#)

Forget The iPhone 6. Next Apple Sensation Leaked  
The Motley Fool

<http://www.fool.com/mms/mark/video-wearable/?>

[utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=contentmarketing&utm\\_campaign=wearable\\_straightsale&source=erbtabimu0860042](#)

[https://www.dollarshaveclub.com?utm\\_medium=display&utm\\_source=taboola](https://www.dollarshaveclub.com?utm_medium=display&utm_source=taboola)

How This Razor is Disrupting a \$13 Billion Industry  
Dollar Shave Club

[https://www.dollarshaveclub.com?utm\\_medium=display&utm\\_source=taboola](https://www.dollarshaveclub.com?utm_medium=display&utm_source=taboola)

<http://popdust.com/2015/03/30/lot18s-tasting-room-giving-liquor-stores-run-money/?>

[utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=referral](#)

Why You Should Be Ordering Your Wine Online  
Popdust by Lot18

<http://popdust.com/2015/03/30/lot18s-tasting-room-giving-liquor-stores-run-money/?>

[utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=referral](#)

<http://www.newretirement.com/blog/2014/10/24/new-reverse-mortgage-calculator-how-to-assess-your-suitability-for-these-loans/?>

[nr\\_product=revmort&nr\\_a=taboola&nr\\_medium=contentmkt&nr\\_creative=monigetfmm&nr\\_adtype=ImageOverHeadLine&nr\\_adgrc](#)  
macworld)

How Much Money Do You Really Get from a Reverse Mortgage?

([http://www.newretirement.com/blog/2014/10/24/new-reverse-mortgage-calculator-how-to-assess-your-suitability-for-these-loans/?nr\\_product=revmort&nr\\_a=taboola&nr\\_medium=contentmkt&nr\\_creative=monigetfmr&nr\\_adtype=ImageOverHeadLine&nr\\_adgrcmacworld](http://www.newretirement.com/blog/2014/10/24/new-reverse-mortgage-calculator-how-to-assess-your-suitability-for-these-loans/?nr_product=revmort&nr_a=taboola&nr_medium=contentmkt&nr_creative=monigetfmr&nr_adtype=ImageOverHeadLine&nr_adgrcmacworld))  
([http://www.idg.tv/video/51527/jared-fliesler-gives-tips-on-thinking-through-your-product.html?utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=AXmodule](http://www.idg.tv/video/51527/jared-fliesler-gives-tips-on-thinking-through-your-product.html?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=AXmodule))  
(<http://ad.doubleclick.net/ddm/clk/291344347;118547794;s>)

Jared Fliesler gives tips on thinking through your product


([http://www.idg.tv/video/51527/jared-fliesler-gives-tips-on-thinking-through-your-product.html?utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=AXmodule](http://www.idg.tv/video/51527/jared-fliesler-gives-tips-on-thinking-through-your-product.html?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=AXmodule))  
(<http://ad.doubleclick.net/ddm/clk/291344347;118547794;s>)

The Key Financial Indicators of a Healthy Business  
American Express OPEN

(<http://ad.doubleclick.net/ddm/clk/291344347;118547794;s>)


# COMMENTS

Login





Write a comment

2 Comments  
Sort   Subscribe   RSS (<http://comments.US1.gigya.com/comments/rss/5311901/mw/1057197>)


- 

**Emma Watson**275 days ago

 Please help! What is an 1s?

Like   Reply   Share   1 reply0
- 

**Sönke Janssen**268 days ago

 s (list) shows you all the Files in the Directory.

Like   Reply   Share0