

Xmetalfanx Multimedia Guide



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Audio

- *Playing Audio*
 - Legit Audio Players



Xmplay

- (<http://www.un4seen.com/>)
- One of my Favorites, that does well in Wine on a Linux system too. Its smaller, customizable and has some good skins
- Some of the best audio enhancer addons ALSO work with this program in Wine. Despite the number of free



Foobar

- (<http://www.foobar2000.org/>)
- When I am in Windows, I use this one regularly now.



Jet Audio

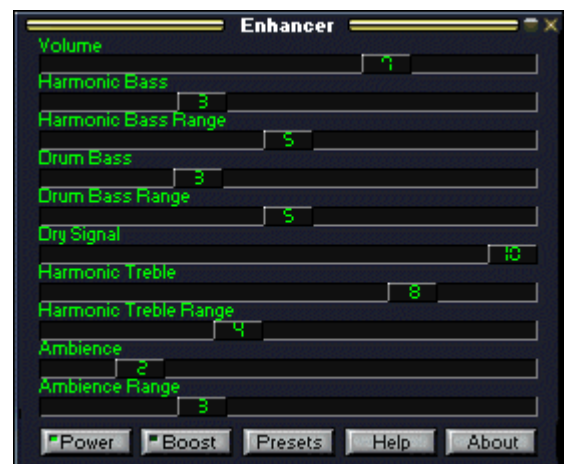
- (<http://www.jetaudio.com/>)
- Decent player, though I have opted for smaller freewares, such as Foobar, or Xmplay over Jet Audio



Winamp

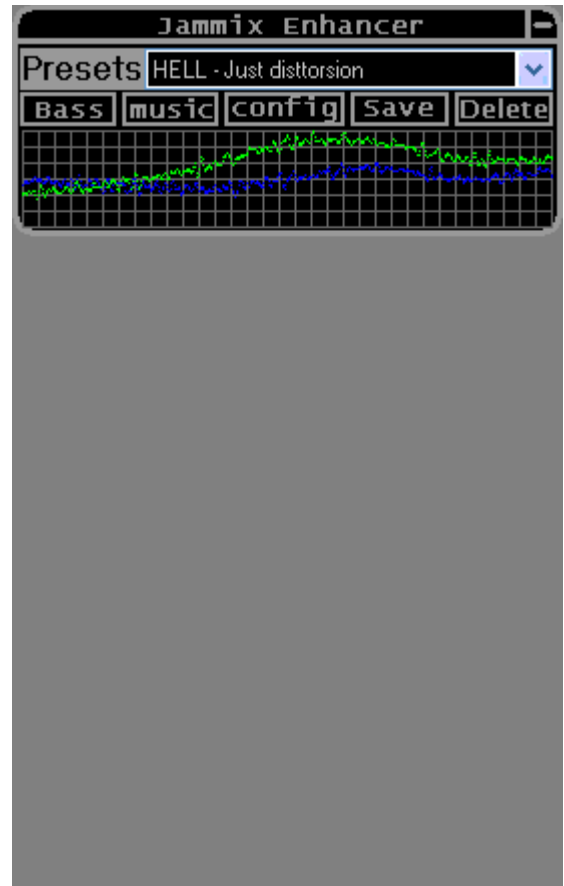
- (<http://www.winamp.com/>)
- One of (if not THE) MOST well known audio player you can download... Skin and Plugin make Foobar highly customizable and despite the other players, I still find myself installing Winamp on my computers anyway.

- FREE Audio Enhancement Addons (For Winamp or XMPlay)
 - **Enhancer** (Winamp - <http://www.winamp.com/plugin/enhancer-017/81361>)
 - This one works well and I have used it for awhile. It covers too much for me to go into here (that may be added in future releases of this guide), and I admit you may have to play with the settings a bit to get the desired results, though I have to say .. I think the "General Improvements" preset is good for my tastes (along with the media player's equalizer)



Jammix Enhancer

Very similar to “Enhancer” .. I have had good results with Jammix



Legit Video Codecs Include:

- Divx, Real Media (.rm files), Real Audio (.ra files), .RAM (Streaming real media files), .WMV files (although, .WMV are the file types that are most likely to be infected, from what I have seen)

Common Legit Video Media Playing Programs:

- My Favorites:



VLC ("Video LAN")

- (<http://www.videolan.com/>)
- My Go-to Video Media Player for all of the Operating Systems I use. I have never had an issue with VLC playing anything and am very happy to recommend it.



GOM Player

- (<http://www.gomlab.com/>)
- A very good "alternative" to VLC and worth a look, even for VLC users

- others:



- **Quick-time Alternative / Real Alternative / Media Player Classic Alternative**
 - (<http://www.sourceforge.net/projects/guliverkli2/>)



- **KMPlayer**
 - (<http://www.kmplayer.com/>)
 - I like it and want to say I use it, but despite many settings changing of the renderer, I always have all of my videos OR DVDs lag during playback... Give this a try and if that doesn't happen to you, great. If i do find out what I am doing wrong, and how to fix it, I will gladly remove this comment. KMPlayer seems like a great option

- Not legit Video activity:

- When I media player redirects you (in general) to any website instead of prompting you with a "You need to install BLAH BLAH codec". I have commonly seen this in .WMV files (although I am NOT saying "all and any .WMV files, are infected")
- Keep in mind that (Codec permitting, if it is installed or not on your computer), Audio and Video formats should be able to be played on nearly any media player.

Video Converters

Here are some suggestions on media file converters ... I can not claim that "every program" can handle "every" format... but as I person who has done work with common video files and codecs ... They all support the most common formats you will find.



Any Video Converter

- (http://www.filehippo.com/download_any_video_converter/)..
- Simple interface and it has a ton of options...



Handbrake

- (http://www.filehippo.com/download_handbrake/)
- A multi-platform option that I have used as much as Any Video Converter and its very good ..



"Super "

- (http://www.filehippo.com/download_super/)
- A good but the interface can be confusing for some (and I am a "techie" type and I think it could even be organized a bit better)



File Factory

(<http://www.pcfreetime.com/>)

DOES CONTAIN ASK TOOLBAR, that if the option to install this is Unchecked, it will NOT install the toolbar and the program is just fine

I saw this recommended alot, and while I am still playing around with video quality ... it looks OK if you like this interface and it works well so far... a good alternative to the prior ones I recommended.

Extra Note:

- The DVDs I mention below:
 - Play (with the need to "fast-play"/"fast-forward" at the part of the skipping, on my set-top Sony DVD player, I purchased for about \$70, years ago (meaning it is NOT SOME really expensive surround-sound- multimedia system)
 - In some cases would not even be "read" by some programs on the computer.

I have just noticed that when tried to read a "problematic" DVD, even some of the other programs may have trouble (even one I love, Freemake Video Converter, was not able to convert the whole video and only went up to the part of the "skipping" and then stopped) ... File Factory was able to convert the entire episode (on DVD) /DVD .. granted that the part of that skipped, had audio and video issues; then like the set-top player "method" listed above (with "fast forwarding for a short period of time") the rest of the episode / DVD continues playing without any issue.

- Granted that this depends on the condition of the DVD itself... every Disc and every scratch is different and this may not work for all "bad" DVDs you try

I just wanted to mention this as this may help out others that wish to view DVDs in their collection that have "seen better days"



Freemake Video Converter

- (<http://www.freemake.com>)
- This one may be one of the nicer one's for new users (not saying the others are hard to use) but the GUI is nice and simple, while the program has a ton of options. The few tests I have done come out good and I would recommend this one.

Bottom line - These are all good options, and worth a try. If you have enough space on your computer, remember ... no one says you can only use one of these ... Get all of them, if you desire and play with them to see which one suites you best.

You may have to play with the settings to get desired results (I mean if you set the settings really low, and come up with a video file that is pixalated... that's not the programs fault. but the settings ... even I have to do a few "trial and error" tests on videos at times... just wanted to point that out to some people that would blame the programs themselves.

Videos to DVD or VCD

Multi-platform Options

Devede

(URL HERE)

- Basic program what from what I have seen, that IS CUSTOMIZABLE (You have options on how your dvds look)
- May not produce a “Highly professional look”, however very very good and I have NEVER had issues with this program or the product it produces. If I want to make a fast DVD, that I know will work (Instead of fooling with the options in some of the other programs), .. I use Devede



DVD Styler

(URL Here)

■ Windows

Freeware

○ **AVStoDVD**

- *Very similar to ConvertXtoDVD (Shareware)*
- *Takes a little longer to encode, but it's a good program and worth a try. I have only made a few “trial” dvds with AVStoDVD, though I am pleased with the results.*
- *Many, many options*
- *IF you try this one and think it's “too complicated” I would suggest Freemake Video Converter, as it's a lot easier for new users (and even users that know what they are doing, who want a simpler interface)*



○ **Freemake Video Converter**

- *This is the one I use the most (in Windows, I use DEVEDE, which DOES have a Windows version, that I have not currently tried, in Linux)*
- *Very robust program*
- *Easy to use Interface, without being “dumbed down” (Too simple, and it makes it hard to use the program, in other-words)*

Shareware

○ **ConvertXtoDVD**

- It has been awhile, since I tried those, though I remember it has a lot of options and does make “professional” looking results
- I would:
 - A) Try before you buy (not only try CovertXtoDVD, but also the free programs I recommend, as they may suite your needs, and you don't have to spend any of your hard-earned money on them.

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Closing

My Website:

For more tips, programs suggestions, and security information, please visit my sites at <http://xmetalfanx.awardspace.us> or <http://xmetalfanx.x10.mx/> .. When I have fully uploaded my files, both sites will be exactly the same (think of them as mirrors). I have had bad luck with web-hosts, and did not originally intended to “have a mirror setup” for my site, though once the idea came to me, it seems to make sense.

When fully uploaded, both sites will be considered my “homepage” and I do not have any preference as one host as a “homepage” and the other as a “Mirror of my homepage”.

Different web-hosts I have had in the past, have canceled service without notifying me and when signing up for another host, I have had to wait, so my site was offline (off the internet) for in some cases a week or more at a time. I figure even if one of these hosts, stop service, then I still have the other host to refer people to.

This guide was typed in:



- **Libre Office**...(Free Office Client for a variety of Operating Systems)
 - (<http://www.libreoffice.org/>)

Thanks

I want to give thanks to sites, programmers, and friends, along with people I never met, but give great advice .. I know I may forget some (there are so many I want to thank, but hopefully I will include everyone I want



- **Ghack.net** – News, “new” (to me) programs, tech advice and news
 - Of course I mean the contributors to Ghack, not just the webmasters themselves
- Programmers and developers (along with all beta testers, ...etc) of the mentioned programs...
 - I am constantly updating this “Guide”, so I am not sure if listing all programs here would really be “smart” though if you see your program listed, I thank you for making a great product