Feature Request: Album Art

**November 20, 2022**

# **Objective**

To show the album art for each track, next to the information for each track.

# **Background**

The Jamming project displays and manipulates a list of tracks from Spotify, using the Spotify API. The track list, though styled with CSS, is text only. There are no images of the album art.

Visualizing the album art makes the app more visually pleasing, and—this might be a UX improvement—might assist users in locating the song they are thinking of.

# **Technical Design**

There will be no new React components. Instead, **Track.js**, and **Spotify.js** (and perhaps other dependencies, including **Track.css**) will be updated to show tracks’ album art.

If we imagine that the below table (Fig. 1) represents the skeleton of a track as displayed by Jamming at present, the next table (Fig. 2) is what the track listing will look like with Album art implemented. Fig. 3 is an alternative layout to Fig. 2.

To accomplish this, more data will have to be pulled out from the API in **Spotify.js** and added to a certain part of the JSX in **Track.js**. The structure of the JSX will change, as will the CSS in **Track.css**. Ideally the CSS will use grid or flexbox.

## **Figure 1**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Song title] | | [add or remove track] |
| [Artist name] | [Album name] |

## **Figure 2**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Song title] | | [Album art] | [add or remove track] |
| [Artist name] | [Album name] |

## **Figure 3**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Album art] | [Song title] | | [add or remove track] |
| [Artist name] | [Album name] |

# **Caveats**

Ideally the track album art will load instantaneously. If not instantaneously, then the list of tracks should only load if all album art is loaded. In 2022, internet speeds are sufficient—at least in the US—though developing nations may experience issues. In any case, this can probably be accomplished with async/await or another similar technology.

Instead of or in addition to the above, we should probably also include a placeholder image that is displayed until the album art is loaded. If for whatever reason there is an error, this placeholder image will serve as a fallback. If for whatever reason there is no album art at all, again, the placeholder will come into play.

Another concern is the potential for the “visual crowding” that can occur, as there are multiple tracks in a list on the screen. Without proper padding, this might not be aesthetically pleasing. CSS can solve this.