

Q & A

How do I add/change/remove music?

Much the same way as installing the initial music:

1. Connect the pi zero to a PC via the Pi's USB data port.
2. Make the changes to the USB drive that appears.
3. Create a file called "update" in the root directory of that drive.
4. "Safely remove" the drive
5. Reboot the Pi zero.

Is it safe to just pull the power?

Provided you've configured a read only root and aren't writing to the USB gadget export, yes (as far as I know at least)

Can I disable ssh?

Yes, but bear in mind that you'll need a keyboard and monitor or a serial to USB dongle to do any admin.¹

Should I change the pi user's password?

Probably, the default is well know.

Can I create an open (unencrypted) hotspot?

Yes, but I wouldn't recommend it. Especially if you have ssh enabled and haven't changed the default password.

Can boot time be improved?

Probably not but I'm open to suggestions.

Can I power it from an always on feed from the car battery?

Sure. But doing so will drain the battery, possibly to a level where you won't be able to start the car.

Can I use other Pi models?

Yes, but:

- Bigger Pi means more current draw
- Quad core Pi models are overkill for this use case
- No Pi with onboard ethernet (B, B+, 2B, 3B, 3B+) can act as a USB mass storage device.
- As far as I am aware there are no gpio sound cards currently available for 26 pin models².
- If you want wifi on anything other than a zeroW, 3B, or 3B+ you'll need a suitable USB dongle.
- A and A+ cannot hot swap between being a USB device and USB host. They also need a different entry in /boot/config.txt to force device mode:
`dtoverlay=dwc2,dr_mode=peripheral`

¹ Or just re-enable it by creating the ssh file in the boot partition.

² There were before the 40pin models launched.

How big an SD card can I use?

Unknown, but I'm running with a 64GB one.

Can I use the onboard sound?

Pi zero and zeroW don't have onboard sound³. On other models, sure.

What about the compute module?

Should function, but it's more work and expense than it's worth.

Can I use a USB stick for music storage?

Sure. Ignore everything relating to the USB mass storage gadget and adjust your /etc/fstab entries as needed. You can also update/change your music by unplugging the USB stick and plugging it into a PC. The "update" file is still needed to instruct the pi to update MPD's library and playlist.

Mount the USB stick read only and only connect/disconnect it when the pi is off.

³ But see here: <https://learn.adafruit.com/adding-basic-audio-output-to-raspberry-pi-zero>