cmus Console music player

START HERE

`cmus`
Start the player

z / b
Previous / next track

`:add ~/Music`
Add music to the library

e
Queue a track

Enter
Play the selected track

/
Search

c
Pause / resume

q
Quit (state is saved)

Library views 1 / 2 → `y` / `e` → **Playlist / Queue** views 3 / 4 → `Enter` / `c` → **Playback** status line

CONCEPTS

cmus is modal like vi: keys act on the current view, and : opens a command line for everything else.

The queue plays first, ignores shuffle and is emptied as it plays; the library or playlist continues afterwards.

Settings, library, playlist and queue are saved on quit; :save does it manually.

VIEWS

1 Library, tree (artist / album)

2 Library, sorted track list

3 Playlist

4 Play queue

5 File browser

Enter opens a directory, Backspace goes up, a adds the item.

6 Filters list

7 Key bindings and settings

Enter on a setting puts its :set command on the command line.

Tab
Move between tree columns

Backspace
Go up a directory (browser)

PLAYBACK

Enter Play selected track

c Pause / unpause

x Play from start

v Stop

z / b Previous / next track

Z / B Previous / next album

Left / Right
Seek 5 s back / forward

h / l Seek 5 s back / forward

, / .
Seek 1 min back / forward

= / - Volume up / down 10%

[/] Volume down / up 1%

t Show remaining time

PLAY MODES

s Toggle shuffle

r Toggle repeat

C Toggle continue

When off, playback stops after each track.

f Toggle follow

The cursor follows the playing track.

m
Cycle aaa mode (all / artist / album)

M Play from library / playlist

o
Play sorted / unsorted library

^R Repeat current track

LIBRARY AND QUEUE

a Add to library

In the browser: adds file or directory, moves down one line.

e Queue track

E Queue track at the front

y Add to playlist

D / Delete Remove from list

p / P
Move item after / before the cursor

Space
Expand artist (tree) / toggle mark

u
Update library cache (browser: reload)

U Update cache for selection

i Select the playing track

In the file browser, i toggles hidden files instead.

NAVIGATION

j / k Down / up

g / G Top / bottom

^F / ^B Page down / up

^D / ^U Half page down / up

^E / ^Y
Scroll one line down / up

NAVIGATION (cont.)

^L Redraw screen

SEARCH AND FILTERS

/ Search forward

All words must match; Enter ends the prompt.

? Search backward

n / N Next / previous match

L Live filter the current view

F Apply a filter expression

`:filter <expr>`
Filter the library

`:fset <name>=<expr>`
Save a named filter

`:factivate <name>`
Activate saved filters

Prefix a name with ! to negate it.

Filter short forms

Short	Field
~a	artist
~l	album
~t	title
~g	genre
~y	date (a-b range)
~d	duration, seconds

Combine filters with & and |, for example ~a beatles & ~y1965-1970.

COMMANDS

`:add <path>`
Add file, directory or URL

-l library, -p playlist, -q queue, -Q queue front.

`:save [file]`
Save playlist or library

-l library, -e also writes metadata.

`:set <opt>=<val>`
Change a setting

`:set <opt>?` shows the current value.

`:seek <pos>`
Jump in the track

Examples: +1:30, -1m, 1h.

`:vol <pct>`
Set volume

`:clear`
Clear the current view

Add -l, -p or -q to pick library, playlist or queue.

`:colorscheme <name>`
Load a colour theme

COMMANDS (cont.)

`:mark <expr>`
Mark tracks matching a filter

`:q`
Quit

! Run a shell command

^C Prints a hint; does not quit

CMUS-REMOTE

`cmus-remote -p`
Start playback

`cmus-remote -u`
Toggle pause

`cmus-remote -n / -r`
Next / previous track

`cmus-remote -s`
Stop

`cmus-remote -Q`
Print player status

`cmus-remote -v <vol>`
Change volume

Examples: +10%, -5%, 70%.

`cmus-remote -k <pos>`
Seek in the track

`cmus-remote -q <file>`
Add file to the queue

`cmus-remote -l <file>`
Add file to the library

`cmus-remote -C <cmd>`
Send any command-mode command

`cmus-remote -R / -S`
Toggle repeat / shuffle

RECIPES

First run

```
cmus
# in cmus:
:add ~/Music
# press 2 for the track list,
Enter plays
```

Play only one genre

```
:filter ~g jazz
# or keep it named
:fset jazz=genre="*jazz*"
:factivate jazz
```

Control from a keybinding or script

```
# play / pause, next, status
cmus-remote -u
cmus-remote -n
cmus-remote -Q
```

Queue a directory from outside

```
cmus-remote -q ~/Music/Album
# print the playlist
cmus-remote -C "save -p -"
```