mpc MPD command-line client

START HERE

`mpc add /`
Queue the whole library

`mpc volume +5`
Louder

`mpc play`
Start playing

`mpc status`
What is playing?

`mpc toggle`
Pause or resume

`mpc search artist <name>`
Find songs

`mpc next`
Skip track

`mpc clear`
Empty the queue

Music library database → `add / findadd` → **Queue** current playlist → `play` → **MPD** daemon plays → `outputs` → **Speakers** audio output

CONCEPTS

mpc is only a remote control: the MPD daemon plays the music and keeps the queue, so playback goes on after mpc exits.

Commands may be shortened to any unambiguous prefix, and plain mpc prints the status.

Queue positions start at 1. Paths for add and load are relative to the music directory, not the filesystem.

PLAYBACK

`mpc play [<pos>]`
Play, optionally from a queue position

`mpc pause`
Pause playback

`mpc toggle`
Toggle play and pause

`mpc stop`
Stop playback

`mpc next`
Next song

`mpc prev`
Previous song

`mpc seek +30`
Jump 30 seconds forward
Absolute without a sign: mpc seek 1:30. Percent also works: mpc seek 50%

`mpc seek -10`
Jump 10 seconds back

`mpc seekthrough +5:00`
Seek across song boundaries

`mpc current`
Show the playing song

`mpc queued`
Show the next song

`mpc current --wait`
Block until the song changes

MODES

`mpc random on|off`
Shuffle playback order

`mpc repeat on|off`
Repeat the queue

`mpc single on|once|off`
Stop after one song or repeat it
With repeat on, single repeats the current song

`mpc consume on|once|off`
Remove songs once played

MODES (cont.)

`mpc crossfade [<sec>]`
Get or set crossfade length

`mpc replaygain off|track|album`
Choose ReplayGain mode

Mode commands without an argument toggle the current state.

VOLUME AND OUTPUTS

`mpc volume <0-100>`
Set the volume

`mpc volume +5 / -5`
Change volume relatively

`mpc volume`
Show the volume

`mpc outputs`
List audio outputs

`mpc enable <output>`
Enable an output

`mpc disable <output>`
Disable an output

`mpc enable only <output>`
Enable one, disable all others

`mpc toggleoutput <output>`
Toggle an output

QUEUE

`mpc add <path>`
Add a file or folder from the library

`mpc add /`
Add the whole library

`mpc insert <path>`
Add right after the current song

`mpc clear`
Empty the queue

`mpc playlist`
List the queue

`mpc del <pos>`
Remove a queue position
Position 0 removes the current song

`mpc crop`
Keep only the current song

`mpc move <from> <to>`
Move a song within the queue

`mpc shuffle`
Shuffle the queue once

`mpc searchplay <type> <text>`
Play the first queue match

`mpc --format "%position% %title%" playlist`
List queue with a custom format

PLAYLISTS

`mpc lsplaylists`
List stored playlists

`mpc load <name>`
Append a playlist to the queue

`mpc load <name> --range=0:10`
Load only part of a playlist

`mpc save <name>`
Save the queue as a playlist

`mpc playlist <name>`
List the songs of a playlist

`mpc rm <name>`
Delete a stored playlist

`mpc addplaylist <name> <path>`
Add a song to a playlist

`mpc delplaylist <name> <pos>`
Remove a song from a playlist

`mpc moveplaylist <name> <from> <to>`
Reorder a playlist

LIBRARY AND SEARCH

`mpc search <type> <text>`
Find songs by substring
Types: artist, album, title, genre, date, composer, filename, any

`mpc find <type> <text>`
Find songs by exact match

`mpc findadd <type> <text>`
Find exact matches and queue them

`mpc search artist <a> album <b>`
Combine several conditions

`mpc ls [<dir>]`
List a library folder

`mpc listall [<path>]`
List every song

`mpc list <type>`
List all values of a tag

`mpc list album group artist`
Albums grouped by artist

`mpc update [<path>]`
Rescan for new or changed files

`mpc update --wait`
Rescan and wait until done

STATUS AND FORMATTING

`mpc status`
Show state, volume and modes

STATUS AND FORMATTING (cont.)

`mpc status "%state% %currenttime%/%totaltime%"`
Custom status line
Handy for status bars; tags include percenttime, volume, songpos

`mpc -f "%artist% - %title%" current`
Custom song format

`mpc -f "[%artist% - ]%title%" current`
Hide a group when its tag is empty

`mpc idle [<event>]`
Wait for an MPD event
Events include player, mixer, playlist, database, options

`mpc idleloop`
Print every event as it happens

`mpc -q <cmd>`
Suppress the status line

CONNECTION

`mpc --host=<host> status`
Talk to another MPD server

`mpc --host=<pass>@<host>`
Connect with a password

`MPD_HOST / MPD_PORT`
Defaults for host and port
Command-line options override them. MPC_FORMAT sets the default song format

If mpc cannot connect, check that MPD is running and that MPD_HOST points at it.

RECIPES

Queue an album and play

```
mpc clear
mpc findadd album "<album>"
mpc play
```

Add search results with a pipe

```
mpc search artist "<name>" | mpc add
mpc play
```

Random mix of one genre

```
mpc clear
mpc findadd genre "<genre>"
mpc random on
mpc shuffle
mpc play
```

Now playing for a status bar

```
mpc -f "%artist% - %title%" current
# block until the song changes, then print again
while mpc current --wait >/dev/null; do
  mpc -f "%artist% - %title%" current
done
```