mpv Keyboard media player

START HERE

`mpv <file or URL>`
Play something

Space
Pause / resume

Left / Right
Seek 5 s

[/]
Slower / faster

9 / 0
Volume down / up

f
Fullscreen

j
Cycle subtitles

q
Quit

Seek step by key

Keys	Step
`Left / Right`	5 s
`Shift+Left / Right`	1 s, exact
`Up / Down`	1 min
`Shift+Up / Down`	5 s, exact
`PgUp / PgDn`	chapter
`Shift+PgUp / PgDn`	10 min

CONCEPTS

mpv has almost no visible UI: everything is a key. Hover the window to see the on-screen controller, or press ? for the list of bindings.

Command line options map 1:1 to mpv.conf lines (--fs becomes fs). Command line beats config, config beats built-in defaults.

Keys shown are the defaults of the stable release. A user input.conf adds to or overrides them.

PLAYBACK

Space / p Pause / resume

Left / Right
Seek back / forward 5 s

Up / Down
Seek forward / back 1 min

q Quit

Q
Quit and remember position
The next start of the same file resumes where you left off.

Shift + Left / Shift + Right
Seek 1 s, exact

Shift + Up / Shift + Down
Seek 5 s, exact

. / ,
Step one frame forward / back
Frame stepping pauses playback.

Home Jump to start of file

PgUp / PgDn
Previous / next chapter

Shift + BackSpace
Undo last seek

Shift + PgUp / Shift + PgDn
Seek 10 min back / forward

Ctrl + Left / Ctrl + Right
Previous / next subtitle line

SPEED AND LOOP

[/] Speed down / up 10%

BackSpace
Reset speed to normal

{ / } Halve / double speed

l Set A-B loop points
First press sets A, second sets B, third clears the loop.

SPEED AND LOOP (cont.)

L
Toggle infinite loop of the file

`mpv --speed=<n>`
Start at a given speed

`mpv --loop=inf <file>`
Loop forever

`mpv --ab-loop-a=<t> --ab-loop-b=<t>`
Preset A-B loop

`mpv --loop-playlist`
Loop the whole playlist

AUDIO AND VOLUME

9 / 0 Volume down / up

m Mute

Cycle audio tracks

Ctrl + Minus / Ctrl + Plus
Audio delay -/+ 0.1 s
Fixes audio that runs ahead of or behind the picture.

`mpv --aid=<n>`
Start with audio track n

`mpv --volume=<0-130>`
Start volume

SUBTITLES

j / J
Cycle subtitle track forward / back

v Subtitles on / off

z / Z Subtitle delay -/+ 0.1 s
Use when subtitles are out of sync.

r / R
Move subtitles up / down

G / F Subtitle size +/- 10%

Ctrl + Shift + Left / Right
Sync subtitle delay to prev / next line

`mpv --sub-file=<file>`
Load an external subtitle file

`mpv --sid=<n>`
Start with subtitle track n

VIDEO AND WINDOW

f Toggle fullscreen
Esc leaves fullscreen.

Alt + 0 / Alt + 1 / Alt + 2
Window half / original / double size

VIDEO AND WINDOW (cont.)

T Keep window on top

A Cycle aspect ratio override

Alt + Plus / Alt + Minus
Zoom in / out

Alt + BackSpace
Reset pan and zoom

Ctrl + h
Toggle hardware decoding
Try this first when playback stutters or colours look wrong.

`mpv --fs`
Start fullscreen

`mpv --no-video <file>`
Audio only, no window

PLAYLIST

> / Enter Next file in playlist

< Previous file in playlist

F8 Show playlist

Ctrl + v
Append clipboard file or URL
Handy for queueing links without leaving the player.

`mpv --shuffle <files>`
Play in random order

`mpv <dir>`
Play every file in a folder

`mpv --playlist=<file>`
Load a playlist file

INFO AND SCREENSHOTS

s Screenshot with subtitles
Saved to the current directory unless screenshot-directory is set.

S
Screenshot without subtitles

o Show progress and time

i Show stats overlay

? Show key binding overlay

` Open the console
Run commands such as set speed 1.5; Esc closes it.

MOUSE

Double-click
Toggle fullscreen

Right-click Pause / resume

MOUSE (cont.)

Scroll › up / Scroll › down
Volume up / down

COMMAND LINE

`mpv <file or URL>`
Play a file or stream

`mpv --start=<time>`
Start at a time
Accepts 90, 1:30, 50% or +56 (relative to start).

`mpv --profile=<name>`
Apply a named profile

`mpv --no-config`
Ignore all config files
Quick test to see if a problem comes from your config.

`mpv --ytdl-format=<fmt>`
Format selection for web links
Needs yt-dlp installed.

`mpv --input-test --force-window --idle`
Show key names as you press

CONFIGURATION

`~/.config/mpv/mpv.conf`
Options, one per line

`~/.config/mpv/input.conf`
Your key bindings

`option=value`
Config syntax
Same as --option=value. A bare flag means yes; # starts a comment.

`KEY command`
Binding syntax in input.conf
The key # is written SHARP. Modifiers: Shift+, Ctrl+, Alt+, Meta+.

`KEY ignore`
Unbind a default key

RECIPES

Starter mpv.conf

```
# ~/.config/mpv/mpv.conf
hwdec
save-position-on-quit
keep-open=yes
screenshot-directory=~/Pictures
sub-auto=fuzzy
```

Custom keys in input.conf

```
# ~/.config/mpv/input.conf
UP add volume 5
DOWN add volume -5
WHEEL_UP seek 10
WHEEL_DOWN seek -10
a cycle-values speed 1 1.5 2
```

Audio player for a folder

```
mpv --no-video --shuffle ~/
Music
# q quits, > skips
```