

Navigation

- [Home](#)
- [TuxArena](#)
- [TuxArena Blog](#)
- [NeonView](#)
- [Forum](#)

Featured Tutorial

- [How to Compile C/C++ in Ubuntu for Educational Purposes](#)

Guides

- [How to Compile C/C++ in Ubuntu for Educational Purposes](#)
- [Complete Guide to Firefox in Ubuntu](#)
- [Complete Step by Step Guide to Make ISO Images in Ubuntu](#)
- [Guide to CMus - Music Player for Your Terminal](#)
- [Command-Line Guide to Audio Files in Ubuntu](#)
- [Introduction to Linux Command-Line for Beginners](#)
- [A Guide to Wine on Ubuntu for Beginners](#)

Tutorials

- [2 Ways to Install the Latest Flash Player in Ubuntu 11.04](#)
- [How-To: Create ISO Images from Command-Line](#)
- [How-To: Enable Syntax Highlighting in Nano Editor](#)

Online Readers

Debian Recommended Links

- <http://www.debian.org/>
- <http://forums.debian.net/>

Ubuntu Recommended Links

- <http://www.ubuntu.com/>
- <http://ubuntuforums.org/>
- <https://help.ubuntu.com/>
- <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/>
- <http://planet.ubuntu.com/>
- <http://fridge.ubuntu.com/>
- <http://ubuntu-news.org/>
- <http://www.psychocats.net/>
- <http://www.markshuttleworth.com/>

Linux Recommended Links

- <http://www.fsdaily.com/>
- <http://lxxer.com/>
- <http://www.raiden.net/>
- <http://www.linuxtoday.com/>
- <http://www.ubuntuhq.com/>
- <http://www.reddit.com/>
- <http://www.tuxmachines.org/>



Guide to CMus - Music Player for Your Terminal

CMus is a free, powerful, terminal-based music player using the [ncurses toolkit](#). CMus supports various formats, including **Ogg Vorbis**, **FLAC**, **MP3**, **WAV**, **Musepack**, **WavPack**, **WMA**, **AAC** and **MP4**. Altho CMus is not the only good player for the shell (alternatives like [MOC](#), [Herrie](#) or [mp3blaster](#) are also available), I prefer it due to its unique keyboard shortcuts and feature completeness. This guide is divided into the following sections (click on any to jump directly to it):

CMus Features

Using CMus

[Enabling Last.fm or Libre.fm Song Submission in CMus](#)
[How-To: Compile and Install CMus in Debian 5.0 Lenny](#)

CMus Features

Here are the main features of CMus:

- Gapless playback
- ReplayGain support
- MP3 and Ogg streaming from SHOUTcast or Icecast
- Playlist support and powerful playlist filters
- Play queue
- File browser
- Last.fm or Libre.fm song submission support (via scripts)
- Seven different view modes
- Color themes
- Vi-like keyboard shortcuts

Using CMus

First of all, we will add several songs to the media library. CMus uses Vi-style commands, so all the commands will start with **:** followed by a certain command. For example, to add all the audio files inside the `~/music` directory, we would use:

```
:add ~/music
```

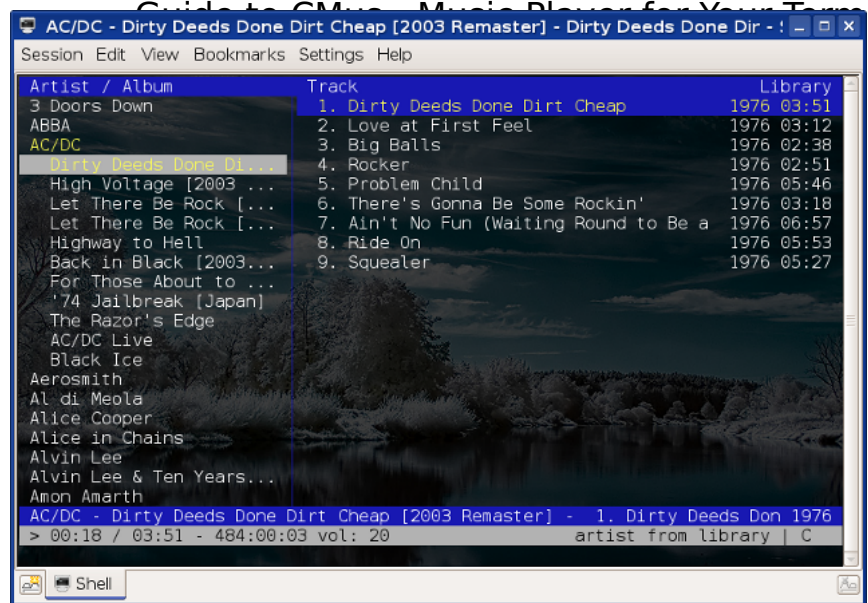
To quit CMus at any time, use the **:q** command (or press **Q** followed by **Y**).

CMus offers seven different views, which can be accessed using the 1-7 keys. Here they are:

- **1 - Library**, the default view mode, including two tabs (artists/albums and songs in currently selected album)
- **2 - Sorted Library**, which provides a playlist view allowing to jump to specific tracks (this view can be customized in view mode 6)
- **3 - Playlist**, editable playlist
- **4 - Play Queue**, which displays the track queue
- **5 - File Browser**
- **6 - Filters**, a list of user-defined filters for the library
- **7 - Settings**, which displays key bindings and commands

Library view mode

The two views which you will usually use are the first and the second one. Let's have a look at the first one



The left tab contains the artists and their albums. To navigate through those use the **Up/Down** arrow keys and **K**, and press **Space** to expand the tree view. Whenever you select an album the tracks will appear in the right tab, so you can use the **TAB** key to switch between the two tabs and **Enter** to start playing the currently selected song. Here are several useful keyboard shortcuts:

TAB to switch between the two tabs

X to start playing

V to stop playing

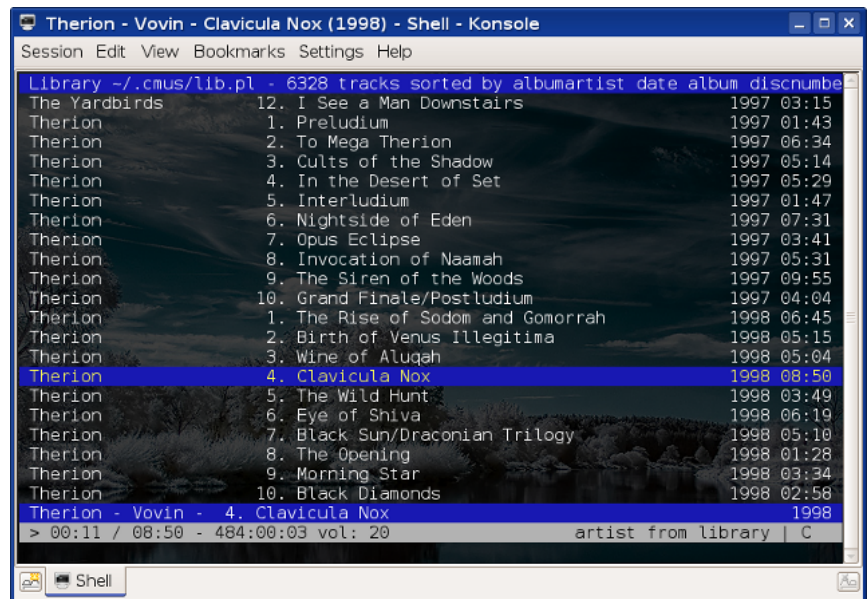
C to pause playing

- to decrease volume by 10%

+ to increase volume by 10%

Sorted Library view mode

The second view mode (Sorted Library) allows you to quickly jump to a song by using the **/** (slash character) then type words from the song you want in any order. Press **Enter** twice to play the song or **N** to search for the next occurrence.



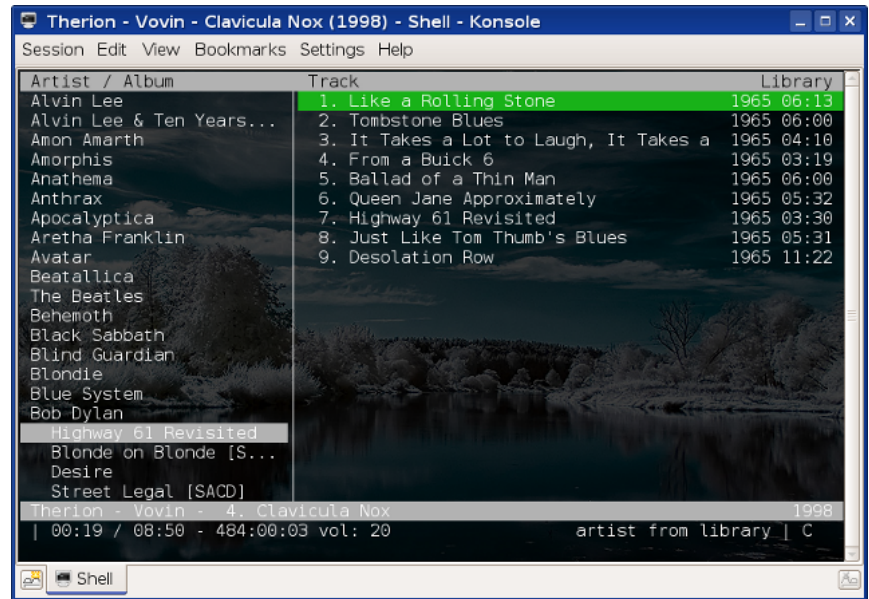
CMus commands and keyboard shortcuts

Using Vi-style keyboard shortcuts, CMus allows you to use commands which are prepended by **:** and it supports auto-completion using **TAB**. Here are several useful commands (a complete list is available in view mode or the manual page):

- **:set softvol=true** - enable software volume control
- **:add /path/to/music/dir** - will add all the audio files from /path/to/music/dir to the library
- **:clear** - will clear the playlist
- **:save playlist.pls** - will save the current playlist
- **:load playlist.pls** - will load playlist.pls
- **:set status-display-program=/path/to/scrobbler** - will set the script to use for Last.fm song submission

Using themes (color schemes)

CMus supports several color schemes using the **:colorscheme** command. For example, **:colorscheme xterm** looks like this:



Enabling Last.fm and Libre.fm Song Submission

Although CMus doesn't come with an integrated Last.fm song submission feature by default, the official website provides several scripts which can do it, and activating any one of them is quite easy. For our example we use the Perl script, which is available [here](#) under the name **post-fm**. First copy the script from [this address](#) preferably inside your `~/cmus` directory, and then edit it with a text editor to fill in your Last.fm username and password. Replace **your-login** and **your-password** with their appropriate values:

```
our %rc = (
  login => "your-login",
  password => "your-password",
```

Next, make the script executable, e.g.:

```
chmod 755 ~/cmus/post-fm
```

Now let's enable the script. The newest version of CMus comes with the **:set status-display-program** command which allows you to set which script you want to use for scrobbling tracks. So to enable it, use the following command:

```
:set status-display-program=~/cmus/post-fm
```

Your track submission should be enabled now. Notice that for Libre.fm you can uncomment the line which **# host => 'turtle.libre.fm'**, just under where you filled in the username and password fields.

How-To: Compile and Install CMus in Debian 5.0 Lenny

First, fetch the needed dependencies:

```
apt-get build-dep cmus
```

Download the source tarball from [the official website](#) (direct link [here](#)) and uncompress it:

```
tar -xjf cmus-v2.3.3.tar.bz2
```

To compile and install issue:

```
./configure
make
make install
```

The last one as root. Alternately you can specify a different installation prefix and install as normal user, e.g.:

```
./configure --prefix=/home/USER/usr
make
make install
```

In which case you should make sure `/home/USER/usr/bin` is in your `$PATH`.

If you have suggestions or corrections to these tutorials, please contact me at craciun.dan@tuxarena.com or leave a comment on the [TuxArena website](#).

Copyright (C) Craciun Dan 2010 under the terms of [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported](#) License.