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*MP3 Easy v2.0*

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## Program Description

MP3 Easy is a tool that will allow you to track down and download your favourite music, just by entering song / artist details into the requests screen.

It works by finding all the servers (or sites) that hold your requested song and then contacting each one in turn to get the song as quickly as possible.

MP3 Easy will have a conversation with each site it connects to and will download (or retrieve) the song if the site allows. If the site will not allow a download until a file has been uploaded (sent), then MP3 Easy will upload a song in exchange for the one you want.

## About MP3 Files

MPEG layer 3 or MP3 is a new digital music format.

MP3 files are compressed by not storing information about 'white noise' within a song. The song can then be played by a MP3 player, or converted back to CDA format (Compact Disk Audio) and played in a conventional CD player.

This reduction in file size has made it feasible to transfer songs in MP3 format over phone lines and the internet.

## About MP3 Easy

At MP3 Easy having made use of various download utilities currently on the market, we found it very difficult to get the song we wanted. Often the process was so slow and labour intensive we gave up. When we eventually got a song the quality was often poor, or it wasn't the version we wanted, or it was not complete.

So we created **MP3 Easy** to simplify and speed up the process.

# **Copyright/License/Warranty**

MP3 Easy

## **License Agreement**

You should carefully read the following terms and conditions before using this software. Your use of this software indicates your acceptance of this license agreement and warranty.

The evaluation version of MP3 Easy may be freely distributed.

## **Registered Version**

Each registered copy of MP3 Easy may be used at a single workstation, subject to the following conditions:

A separate registered copy of MP3 Easy must be obtained for each workstation on which MP3 Easy will be used, even if such use is only temporary. This is not a "concurrent use" license.

No registered user, nor anyone else, may alter or modify the Software. You cannot give anyone else permission to modify the Software.

All rights not expressly granted in this license agreement are reserved entirely to Governing Law

This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the United Kingdom.

## **Disclaimer of Warranty**

THIS SOFTWARE AND THE ACCOMPANYING FILES ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND WITHOUT WARRANTIES AS TO PERFORMANCE OR MERCHANTABILITY OR ANY OTHER WARRANTIES WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. Because of the various hardware and software environments into which MP3 Easy may be put, and the ever changing internet environment in which MP3 Easy operates NO WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS OFFERED.

Good data processing procedure dictates that any program be thoroughly tested with non-critical data before relying on it. The user must assume the entire risk of using the program. ANY LIABILITY OF THE SELLER WILL BE LIMITED EXCLUSIVELY TO PRODUCT REPLACEMENT OR REFUND OF PURCHASE PRICE.



## **Registration**

Registration of MP3 Easy is by internet only.

To register, go to the MP3 Easy web site at: <http://www.mp3easy.co.uk> and click on the registration link.

Enter your personal details on the first page and payment details on the second.

Payments can be made by VISA, MASTERCARD, JCB or Switch.

Your user name and product key will be returned by e-mail, along with a receipt.

Enter the details into the registration screen, take care to key your name and product key exactly as they are shown, details are case sensitive and you should include spaces between words.

### **Invalid Product Key !**

Make sure you have keyed in your name exactly as it is shown in the email you received after registering. If you did not receive an email after registering or the product key you have will not unlock the software, please send full details to the e-mail address shown in [technical support](#).

## Technical Support

If you have a question, please look through the help files to ensure it is not answered by this help system.

We may also post common problems and fixes on the MP3 Easy web site.

<http://www.mp3easy.co.uk>

Any other problems, questions or comments, e-mail [support@mp3easy.co.uk](mailto:support@mp3easy.co.uk)



## Hints and Tips

Here are a few idea's to help you get the most out of MP3 Easy:

1. When MP3 Easy steps through the list of sites, it will deal with the first site that offers a reasonable ratio. This may be a 1:1 byte ratio, shown as Ratio 1:1b in the status column. If there are a large number of matches still to come, then it is worth skipping onto the next connection to try and find a better deal. i.e. a non ratio site or a site offering a better ratio, so MP3 Easy can send a smaller file dependant on what is available in your swaps directory.
2. Put files in your swaps directory that you think will be of interest to the owners of the servers (sites). If you wish, picture and movie files can be placed in your swaps directory. This will ensure you receive the song you want sooner – if you come across a site that is based on file ratio.
3. If you are desperate to get a particular song, increase the connected timeout and connection timeout values.
4. There is no need to type the full song and artist details in order to get the song you want. Just ensure you type enough to make your request unique. Check returns using the SHOW ME button.
5. Use the SHOW ME button on the requests screen to make a more general search. For example you will get a list of eighties songs, by simply entering 'eighties' in the song or artist field.
6. When a list of files available from a single server is being updated as more files are found by the auto site search, select a file and use the up / down arrow keys to look through the list. This will ensure you are not returned to the top of the list, each time new files are added.
7. During a single server connection, you don't have to wait for MP3 Easy to finish scanning for files before you start downloading. BUT: once you start downloading a file the listing of other files available from the server is stopped. Once the download is complete you can select more files to download or double click on remaining directories to show other files available.
8. You can add non ratio ftp sites that you have found whilst surfing the net. Check out [www.audiogalaxy.com](http://www.audiogalaxy.com) and search for 'no ratio sites', the full ftp address i.e. <ftp://MP3:MP3@200.3.120.192:21> can be copied from a web page. Click NO RATIO and select Add to List. Paste the full ftp address into the list box and press Enter. You can then connect to the site to see all the files it holds, whenever you like.

## **System Requirements**

MP3 Easy is a 32-bit program, so requires windows 95/98/2000 or windows NT

To use the program to retrieve files, a modem / internet connection is required. Generally, the faster modem / connection your computer has, the faster MP3's and other files will download.

To play songs and hear the song sample play, you will need a sound card and speakers. Some older computers with slower processor's may stutter when playing MP3 files through MP3 Easy.

## **Install**

To install MP3 Easy simply run the SETUP program downloaded from the internet and follow the prompts. This will install the files, create an icon on your desktop and an entry under programs in the start menu.

## Uninstall

You can uninstall MP3 Easy by following these instructions:

1. If your swaps directory is within the MP3 Easy directory structure, i.e. c:\program files\MP3 Easy\songs, then ensure all files are moved to another directory, as the uninstall process will not remove directories that contain files. Similarly the log file directory will contain date stamped log files.
2. Open the control panel (Click the start button, then click settings followed by control panel). Double click Add/Remove programs and select MP3 Easy from the list shown. Then click the Add/Remove button.
3. If some files or directories are not removed by this process, then use windows explorer to delete them. Finally delete the MP3 Easy icon from the desktop.

## Search and Download

The main function of MP3 Easy is to track down and retrieve specific songs that you request. Once you have clicked the GET SONGS button on the requests screen, you can leave MP3 Easy to do the rest.

### Process

MP3 Easy will attempt to find a number of sites that have the song you request, the setting number of songs is the target amount. Each of the active search engines will be contacted, until the required number of matches have been found or there are no more search engines to query.

Matches are shown in the connections list, at this point MP3 Easy will bring any known non ratio sites the top of the list to contact first.

Then each address in the list is contacted in turn and the song is requested. If the site is a non ratio site then MP3 Easy will begin downloading your song, if the site will not give permission the program will find out the ratio and other details in preparation to send a file in exchange. If the ratio is acceptable and you have a suitable file in your swaps directory, MP3 Easy will send the file and then download your song.

The list is worked through until the song you requested has been received, or there are no more sites in the list to contact.

If you connected to a non ratio site, or the size of the file being sent will earn additional credit on the site, then an alarm will sound giving you the option to download more songs, movies and pictures after your song is received. This stage of the connection is called Single Server Mode.

The process continues until MP3 Easy has attempted to retrieve all the songs in your request list, songs that have been received successfully will be marked with a ticked CD.

## Single Server Mode

Single Server Mode is when MP3 Easy enters into an extended connection to one site.

This can happen in two ways.

1. During a normal Search and Download request, if MP3 Easy comes across a non ratio site, or a site that will allow additional downloads following a file upload.
2. A Direct non ratio connection.

The purpose of a single server connection is to show clearly what files are available to download, and make downloading the files you want as easy as possible.

When a Single Server connection starts, MP3 Easy will search through all the directories on the server, and show songs, movies, pictures etc as it encounters them. The actual files shown are based on the file types set up in settings. If you wish to use a directory structure to manually search the server, then uncheck the auto site search option in settings.

This can take some time but the lists are continually updated, so you can look through the files available whilst more are being added.

You can select one or more files to download at any time, right click a file for download options.

# Settings

The program settings determine how MP3 Easy goes about getting the songs you request. These are the settings available.

- Number of songs to get**
- Minimum connection speed**
- Play sample**
- File Size Checking**
- Use Audio Messages**
- Connection timeout**
- Connected timeout**
- Site Full Retries**
- Auto Site Search**
- Auto Disconnect**
- Swaps Directory**
- File Types**
- Search Engines**

## **Number of songs to get**

This is the number of site matches that MP3 Easy will attempt to find before it begins to contact individual sites.



## **Minimum connection speed**

This is the minimum connection speed for a connection to an individual site. It is measured in bytes per second. MP3 Easy will terminate any connections slower than the speed set (after giving a warning), and continue dealing with sites where the connection is faster than the value set.

The decision is made when 2% of a file has been received, or when 2% of a file has been sent, if required. Connection speed is checked only once for each connection.

## **Play sample**

By default MP3 Easy will play the first 8% of the song you are downloading, as soon as 8% of the song has been received on your computer. This allows you to listen to the quality of the song you are receiving whilst it continues to download.

You can turn this option off or change the ‘% received’ value. Increasing this value will give you more of the song to listen to further into the download. Decreasing the value will play a shorter sample sooner.

## **File Size Checking**

This option is there to stop MP3 Easy downloading files that are incomplete or much larger than would be expected. It should be used when you are requesting one or many specific songs, so any songs that are significantly bigger or smaller than the median file size (based on tolerance % and previous file sizes) will be ignored.

If you are requesting any song by a particular artist, then turn this option off. This will ensure MP3 Easy does not ignore files that are a different size because they are different songs.

## **Use Audio Messages**

This option turns the computer voice messages on / off.

## **Connection timeout**

This is the amount of time (in seconds) that MP3 Easy will wait for a response during a conversation with an individual site. The initial connection is allowed twice the Connection timeout value.

If you've had no success in getting a song that has shown Site Down or Slow in the connections list, then try increasing this value so MP3 Easy will wait longer for a response.

## **Connected timeout**

This is the amount of time (in seconds) that MP3 Easy will wait for a response from an individual site, during the sending or receiving of a file.

By default, if the site that MP3 Easy is connected to has sent no data for 60 seconds, it is assumed to have stopped responding or gone down.

MP3 Easy will attempt to restart the connection to send or receive the remainder of the file. This will not work if the connected site does not support resuming file transfers.

## **Site Full Retries**

This is the number of additional times that MP3 Easy will attempt to connect to a site that has returned a Site Full message. The default setting is 2 times.

## Auto Site Search

This setting applies to Single Server Mode only. When this option is checked, MP3 Easy will automatically search all the directories within a site in order to show files of certain types that are available for download. File types are shown in settings.



## **Auto Disconnect**

This setting applies to Search and Download only. When this option is checked, MP3 Easy will attempt to drop the connection to the internet once an attempt has been made to download all the files in the request list.

Note: Disconnecting from the internet is often dependant on the set up used by your service provider, so under some conditions the disconnection may fail.

## Swaps Directory

This is the location on your computer from which files will be sent and where newly downloaded files will be put.

It is important to keep as many files as possible in your swaps directory, as the more files MP3 Easy has to work with, the more efficient it can be.

As file based ratio is recognised within MP3 Easy, you should consider placing smaller files such as .jpg picture files in your swaps directory, as this can greatly reduce the time it takes to get your requested song.

## File Types

This setting applies to Single Server Mode only. The file types are the types of files that will be shown in the list of files available for download. Files of any other type will be hidden and will not be available for download.

To add a file type simply type a comma and then the file extension of the files you would like to download.

## Search Engines

The search engines are responsible for finding site matches for the songs you ask for. The more matches found, the better the chance of success.

The only difference between the evaluation version and the registered version of the product is the number of search engines available.

The evaluation version uses 1 very good search engine to find matches.

The registered version makes use of 6 search engines, details of which are shown on the [settings](#) form. From this form you can add, edit, delete, enable and disable individual search engines. You can also change the order in which the search engines are contacted using the promote and relegate buttons.

The search engines themselves are independent web sites that offer a service. They may be unavailable, cease to provide the service, or change the format of the data that is returned to MP3 Easy. All these possibilities are outside the control of MP3 Easy, so no warranties as to performance of the MP3 Easy software can be offered. Please see [Copyright/License/Warranty](#)

## Ratio

Ratio is a measure of how many bytes of data need to be uploaded (sent) to a site, in order to download (receive) a number of bytes in return.

i.e. a ratio of 1:5 means you can download 5 bytes of data, for each 1 byte you upload.

**Non Ratio** is therefore a site that does not require that you upload a file, in order to download a file.

Ratio is most often based on bytes of data, but can be based on files.

**File based ratio** is not about file size in bytes of data, so if the status in the connections list is shown as 'Ratio 1:1f', MP3 Easy can upload the smallest file available (MP3 or otherwise) in order to get your song.

# MP3 Easy player

## Playing songs

The list of songs shown when you open the MP3 player in MP3 Easy, are those held in your swaps directory. To play a song, click it once or use the up and down arrow keys to look through the list and press space to play the highlighted song.

You can click on as many songs as you want, a tick will appear next to the song to show your selection and the songs will be played in the order you select them. To deselect a song, just click it again.

## The navigate button

There is only one button on the MP3 player and the function of the button changes depending on what is happening.

If no songs are playing the button will show a '?', clicking it will randomly select songs in the current list and play them in a random order.

If one song is selected / playing, the button will show a square to denote stop. Click it to stop the current song.

If more than one song is selected the button will show an arrow. Click it to move on to the next selected song.

## Additional

You can change the drive and directory to play other MP3 files that are not located in your swaps directory.

The list of MP3 files will initially show in alphabetical order, but if you are looking for files you have recently downloaded then you can order the list by file date and time, most recent showing first. Right click on the list and select 'order by file date'.

The DJ Mix option will take your selected songs and play a section of each song before moving onto the next. The amount of each song that is played is random and will vary between 10% and 40%.

You can play songs through the MP3 Easy player whilst you are downloading songs. When the time comes to play a sample of the song, MP3 Easy will pause the song you are playing, play the sample of the song you are downloading and then go back to the song you were playing.

Close the MP3 player by clicking the cross at the top right of the MP3 player window.



## **Adding Requests**

The requests screen is where you tell MP3 Easy what songs you are looking for.

The song and/or artist can be entered, and added to your request list. You can add as many requests as you like, MP3 Easy will work through the list and try to retrieve each song.

Buttons on the requests screen:

**Show Me**  
**Get Songs**  
**Settings**  
**MP3 Player**  
**No Ratio**  
**Register**  
**Tell Friend**  
**Unsigned**  
**Charts**  
**Wish List**



## **Show Me**

The SHOW ME button will search the internet for the song and artist that have been entered. This button should be used to help you find a song that you can only remember partial details for. If you know the artist but cannot recall the title of the song, just enter the artist and MP3 Easy will show you as many matches as you ask for – the number next to the button is the number of matches that MP3 Easy will try to find.

Once you see the song you want, you can click on it to select it and click the arrow button to add it to your request list.

## **Get Songs**

The GET SONGS button starts the Search and Download process and will attempt to download all the songs in your request list.

## **Tell Friend**

This button opens your default mail client with a message about MP3 Easy for you to tell your friends about our software.

You can type in email addresses manually or open your windows address book to select people who may be interested in MP3 Easy.

## **Unsigned**

This button allows you to link to the MP3 Easy FTP server.

If you are a musician you can upload your music for other MP3 Easy users to listen too. You never know - it could lead to your big break.

An ideal way to start your MP3 collection, download any tracks on the MP3 Easy server and listen to some of the newest musical talent out there.

## **Wish List**

To keep track of the songs you want to download later, add them to your wish list. MP3 Easy will also add any song it could not download from your list of requests. This makes it easy to try again later as items can be copied from your wish list to your request list on the click of a button.

## **Charts**

You can choose to show the UK or global top 40 singles.

As this is copyrighted material there is no button available for adding a chart song to your request list. You can play a sample of a chart song if you have Real Audio installed on your PC, or you can select a song and click on the Amazon web button to show details of buying songs by your chosen artist.

If no chart information is returned then the web site that provides this information may be down or not available. This is outside the control of MP3 Easy.

## Direct non ratio sites

See also: [Single Server Mode](#)

During normal operation of the [Search and Download](#) process, MP3 Easy stores details of any [non ratio](#) sites it comes across.

The details are stored so future searches can allow MP3 Easy to deal with these sites first, to get the song you have requested quicker. OR to allow direct connection to these sites, to see the files (songs, movies and pictures) that are available for download.

By clicking the [NO RATIO](#) button and then Show List, you can simply select a [non ratio](#) site and connect to it. With the setting [auto site search](#) set to it's default value of true, MP3 Easy will do the hard work of scanning the site for files of interest based on your chosen [file types](#) and will list the files for you to pick from. You can often download as many files as you want – just select one file for download or mark a number of files to download one after another.

### Site connection status

The result of the last connection attempt using the list of [non ratio](#) sites is stored and shown next to the site address. This is to help you see which sites are worth trying to connect to.

### Adding non ratio sites

If you like the way MP3 Easy searches through [non ratio](#) sites to list all the files available for download and you know how to find [non ratio](#) site details on the internet, you can add your own favourite sites to the MP3 Easy database.

Check out [www.audiogalaxy.com](http://www.audiogalaxy.com), and search for 'no ratio' sites, the full ftp address i.e. <ftp://mp3:mp3@200.3.120.192:21> can be copied from a web page and pasted into MP3 Easy. Click [NO RATIO](#) and select Add to List. Paste the full ftp address into the list box and press Enter.

You can also add non ratio sites automatically. Click [NO RATIO](#) and select Auto Add. Wait for the new sites to be added to the list, then you can connect to them and start downloading.

Note: non ratio sites are very busy so may return Site Full. Try again later.

### Removing non ratio sites

Some of the non ratio sites that will be stored by MP3 Easy may become out of date. The site may have closed or the user name and password may have been changed. The site may just not connect or be prone to problems. Whatever the reason, you can delete a non ratio site from the database by right clicking on it and selecting delete.



## **Servers**

A server (often referred to as a site in this text) is a computer that can store files and allow access to those files via the internet. The medium by which MP3 Easy gets at those files is called FTP (File Transfer Protocol).

The servers themselves are independent FTP servers that offer a service. They may be unavailable, cease to provide the service, or change the format of the data that is returned to MP3 Easy. All these possibilities are outside the control of MP3 Easy, so no warranties as to performance of the MP3 Easy software can be offered. Please see [Copyright/License/Warranty](#)

## **MP3 Player**

A MP3 player, in effect puts back the data removed by the MP3 compression process. So will play any song to very near CD quality.

There are many software MP3 players to play music on your computer. For example winamp, or the [MP3 Easy player](#) that is included in this software.

Companies are also producing hardware MP3 players that look similar to a personal stereo. MP3 players can be much smaller and with no moving parts will never skip.



