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How to Make a Spotify Playlist for Your Next Party or Road Trip

Create your own digital mix tape on Spotify. Here's how to curate, share, edit (and delete) custom playlists on the music-streaming service.

By [Stephanie Mlot](#) & [Jason Cohen](#)

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(Credit: Yalcin Sonat / Shutterstock)

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When a close friend recently packed up and moved for a year to Australia, I let a series of hand-crafted playlists conveying the emotions neither of us were comfortable sharing. From the homemade compilation cassettes of the '80s and burned CD anthologies of the '90s and 2000s to the digital setlists of today, arranging and distributing favorite songs remains a widely practiced art form.



Rather than simply hoping for a string of hits on the radio or fumbling around a [music-streaming service](#), why not compile a set of tunes you know you love into a customized playlist for working out, taking a road trip, cleaning the house, or celebrating the holidays? All you need is a [Spotify](#) account (free or paid) and an internet-powered device to get started.

How to Get Spotify

First thing's first: Download Spotify on your mobile devices ([iOS](#) or [Android](#)), PC, or visit open.spotify.com to access the web player.



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Existing users can log in, while newbies must choose between a free, ad-supported account, or the \$11.99-per-month Premium version. The latter offers perks that'll make building a playlist a bit easier, like a la carte listening and unlimited skips. The screenshots below are from a Premium account. (To avoid the [app tax](#), sign up for Premium on the web and then sign in on the app.)

Spotify Review



● ● ● ● ● 4.5 Outstanding

\$11.99 at Spotify

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How to Make a Playlist on the Spotify App

(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

To create a playlist of your own, tap the **Create** button at the bottom of the app and choose **Playlist** or open **Your Library > + > Playlist**. Enter a name for the playlist and choose **Create**. From there, the app will ask you to add songs; tap Add to this playlist to search for artists, albums, and individual songs. From the **Add to this playlist** screen, tap the plus (+) icon next to any songs you want added.



(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

Return to this page by selecting **Your Library**, choosing the playlist, and tapping **Add to this playlist**. Otherwise, you can add an individual song from its page. Find a song, tap the three-dot menu on the top right, choose **Add to playlist**, and select the playlist.



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How to Create a Spotify Playlist on Desktop

(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

A playlist can also be created from the desktop app. Click the plus (+) button next to **Your Library** and select **Create a new playlist**. Click **My Playlist #X** up top and enter a name for the playlist, then hit **Save**. Click the box underneath **Let's find something for your playlist** and type in a song or artist.

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(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

Once you add a song, Spotify will make suggestions on what to add next. Click **Add** next to the song. To add a song you're listening to, click the three-dot icon, select **Add to playlist** and pick a playlist. Reorder songs or episodes by dragging and dropping them into the position you want.

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If you're saving a group of playlists for a special occasion (Last Fling Before the Ring, Road Trippin', 90s Dance Party) or mood (Songs to Cry to In the Shower, Let the Good Times Roll, Just Vibes), Spotify supports folders on the desktop app or web player. Next to **Your Library** on the left menu, click the plus (+) button and select **Create a playlist folder**.



How to Edit or Delete a Spotify Playlist

(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

Spotify offers several playlist-editing options. Maybe you need to rename a playlist or make it private. Tap the three-dot menu on your playlist and select **Make private**. Or select **Edit**, where you can tap into the playlist name and type a new one. Remember: Artists can see the names of your public playlists. You cannot, however, see who viewed or liked your public playlist on Spotify, only how many likes it has.

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To re-order songs, press and hold on the hamburger menu next to a song and drag it up or down to where you want it. (Tap the minus button to remove a song.) Other options include removing a playlist from your taste profile (aka the listening history Spotify uses to serve up similar songs) and merging it with another



save playlist (aka, the notering mystery Spotify uses to serve up similar songs), and merging it with another playlist.

(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

To delete songs, tap the three-dot menu next to an individual track and choose **Remove from this playlist**. To erase an entire playlist, tap the three-dot menu under the title and tap **Delete playlist**.

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How to Share a Spotify Playlist



(Credit: PCMag / Spotify)

Playlist curators can share their creations, whether that's a "He Writes the Songs" Barry Manilow tribute or a "Call Me By Lil Nas X's Name" mix. Tap the **three-dot icon > Share** on a song or playlist to send it via Messages or WhatsApp, post it on Instagram Stories, or send it via social networks.

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Brave souls can also ask friends to add to a playlist by inviting them to become collaborators. To do this, open to the playlist and tap **Invite collaborators** icon under the title (it looks like a person with a + symbol) to create a shareable link that expires in seven days. If they have terrible taste, you can revoke their access to a collaborative playlist.



About Stephanie Mlot

Contributor



B.A. in Journalism & Public Relations with minor in Communications Media from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)

Reporter at The Frederick News-Post (2008-2012)

Reporter for PCMag and Geek.com (RIP) (2012-present)

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About Jason Cohen

Senior Editor, Help & How To



As PCMag's editor of how to content, I have to cover a wide variety of topics and also make our stories accessible to everyday users. Considering my history as a technical writer, copywriter, and all-around freelancer covering baseball, comics, and more at various outlets, I am used to making myself into an expert.

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