



Cambridge Audio
Gallery Court
Hankey Place
London SE1 4BB
England

23rd April 2007

AP214171/3

www.cambridge-audio.com

Attributes and ID3 (artist, album, genre, etc) Guide

Introduction

This guide will show you how to set up the correct artist, album, genre, etc for your MP3/WMA/WAV tracks **stored on other devices**, i.e. external hard drive or a computer over a network.

Note: Cambridge Audio cannot take responsibility for any problems that may arise from using any third party software. We also cannot guarantee that third party software will not be changed by its authors.

Why the 640H Uses ID3 tags for Compressed Music (MP3/WMA/AAC)

When the 640H scans external devices for compressed music content, it needs to create a content database on its own hard drive. To do this, it must use a set of tags (album artist, track artist, album name, genre, year, track name (known as title) and the track number) that are actually embedded into the MP3/WMA/AAC track itself. These tags are known as the **ID3 tags**. Typically, these tags are assigned via internet lookup with the software you use on your PC/Mac. In other words, if the 640H shows a different artist name, album name etc (in its "Music Library"), to what you are expecting, it is because the ID3 tags embedded into the MP3 needs to be changed to whatever you desire.

How the 640H Uses ID3 tags for Compressed Music

It is possible to manually assign each track its ID3 tags via either a computer operating system (with exception of the "album artist" tag) or via ID3 editing tools found on music player programs (i.e. Windows Media Player, iTunes, SnackAmp etc). There are also dedicated ID3 tag editing software available too, for example ID3 Tag IT and MP3Tag 5.

If you have been downloading individual tracks from the internet or you have been ripping compilation albums onto your computer, they will each have their own unique ID3 tags. The reason for this is most ripping software assigns each track the actual artist who made it, in the **"track artist"** tag.

Version 02.01.81 software and above now also looks at the **"album artist"** *before* the "track artist" tag when creating its database. This prevents the 640H from assigning an album to each track on a compilation album. Therefore if you change each track or compilation album to have the "album artist" tag as either "Various," "Various Artists" etc, then the 640H database will be less cluttered.

Also, multiple albums will be created if the track numbers for tracks containing the same “album name” tag are identical.

This specific MP3/WMA ID3 tag system is different to the folder tree that your computer operating system uses (for all types of files). In other words, if you have been creating your own folders by Artist and Album, i.e. “Queen, Greatest Hits 2” but this is different to what is in the ID3 tag, i.e. “Queen, Greatest Hits II”, then whatever is in the ID3 tag is what will be shown on the 640H User Interface. In this case, it will be “Queen, Greatest Hits II.”

How the 640H Uses Uncompressed Music (WAV)

WAV files (i.e. uncompressed files) do not contain ID3 tags. Therefore, the 640H creates a file called “Attributes.txt” containing the same information as an ID3 tag, but based on the Artist/Album folder tree structure as described above. The genre and year tags as a result, will be blank. Also, this text file is used for MP3s where the ID3 tag cannot be accessed or is blank. The “Attributes.txt” file is located in the same folder as your music content. However to add the genre and track tags to the 640H database, please use the “edit details” menu located in the “Music Library”. We strongly recommend not editing the “Attributes.txt” file directly through a PC/Mac.

Note: that the 640H does not change the data of any music content on external devices; it merely changes its own database and the Attributes.txt file. This means that if a 640H rescan is performed, then the database will display the ID3 tags in their original form. To solve this problem, use computer controlling software to change the ID3 tag data to what you require at the music content source.

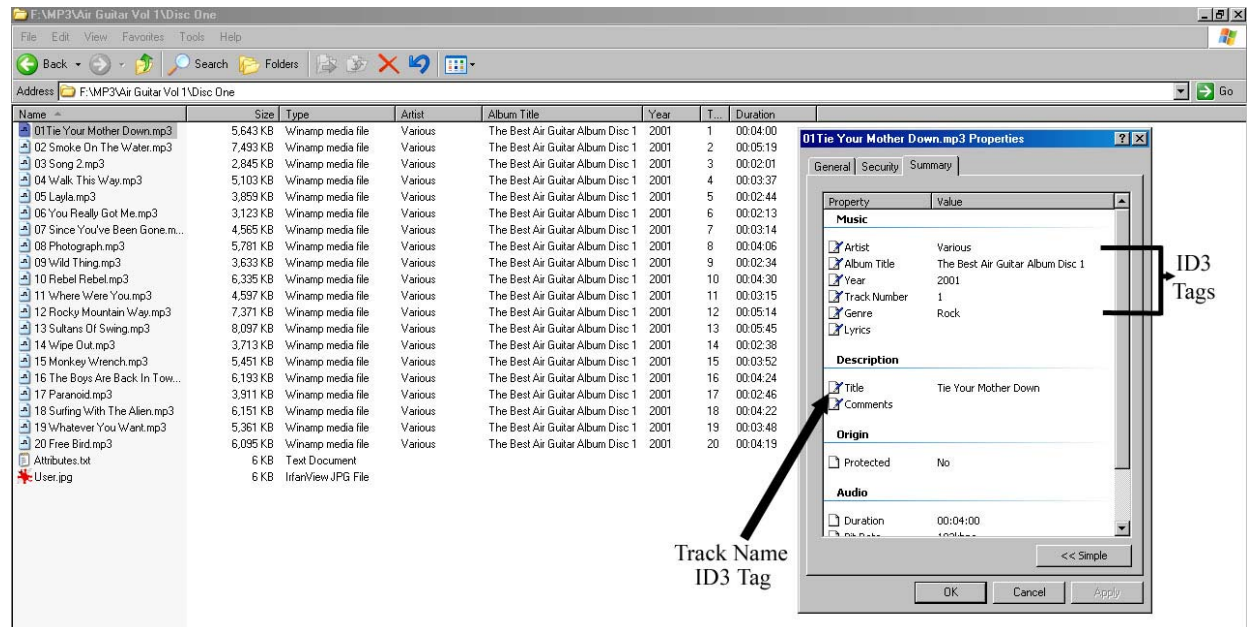
ID3.org Approved Genre's

Blues	Ska	Soul	Jungle	Fast Fusion	Sonata
Classic Rock	Death Metal	Punk	Native American	Bebob	Symphony
Country	Pranks	Space	Cabaret	Latin	Booty Bass
Dance	Soundtrack	Meditative	New Wave	Revival	Primus
Disco	Euro-Techno	Instrumental Pop	Psychadelic	Celtic	Porn Groove
Funk	Ambient	Instrumental Rock	Rave	Bluegrass	Satire
Grunge	Trip-Hop	Ethnic	Showtunes	Avantgarde	Slow Jam
Hip-Hop	Vocal	Gothic	Trailer	Gothic Rock	Club
Jazz	Jazz+Funk	Darkwave	Lo-Fi	Progressive Rock	Tango
Metal	Fusion	Techno-Industrial	Tribal	Psychedelic Rock	Samba
New Age	Trance	Electronic	Acid Punk	Symphonic Rock	Folklore
Oldies	Classical	Pop-Folk	Acid Jazz	Slow Rock	Ballad
Other	Instrumental	Eurodance	Polka	Big Band	Power Ballad
Pop	Acid	Dream	Retro	Chorus	Rhythmic Soul
R&B	House	Southern Rock	Musical	Easy Listening	Freestyle
Rap	Game	Comedy	Rock & Roll	Acoustic	Duet
Reggae	Sound Clip	Cult	Hard Rock	Humour	Punk Rock
Rock	Gospel	Gangsta	Folk	Speech	Drum Solo
Techno	Noise	Top 40	Folk-Rock	Chanson	Acapella
Industrial	AlternRock	Christian Rap	National Folk	Opera	Euro-House
Alternative	Bass	Pop/Funk	Swing	Chamber Music	Dance Hall

The list above shows the approved genre names to use while editing ID3 tags on your PC/Mac or the genre tag in “edit details” menu on the 640H, according to the ID3.org specification.

Example

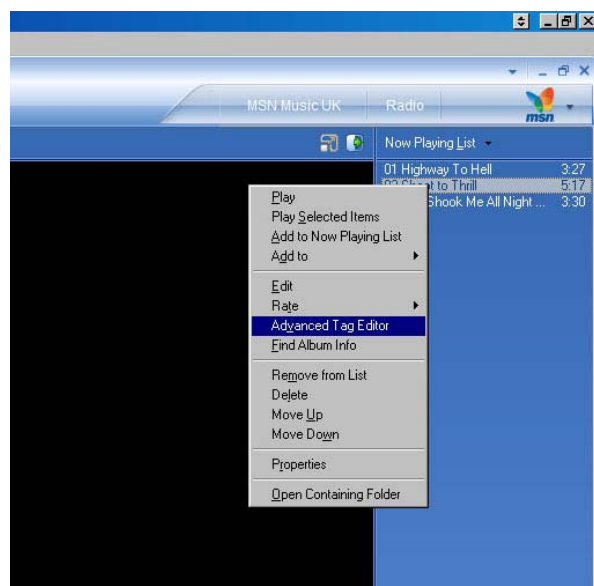
An example of good ID3 tag assignment is shown below.



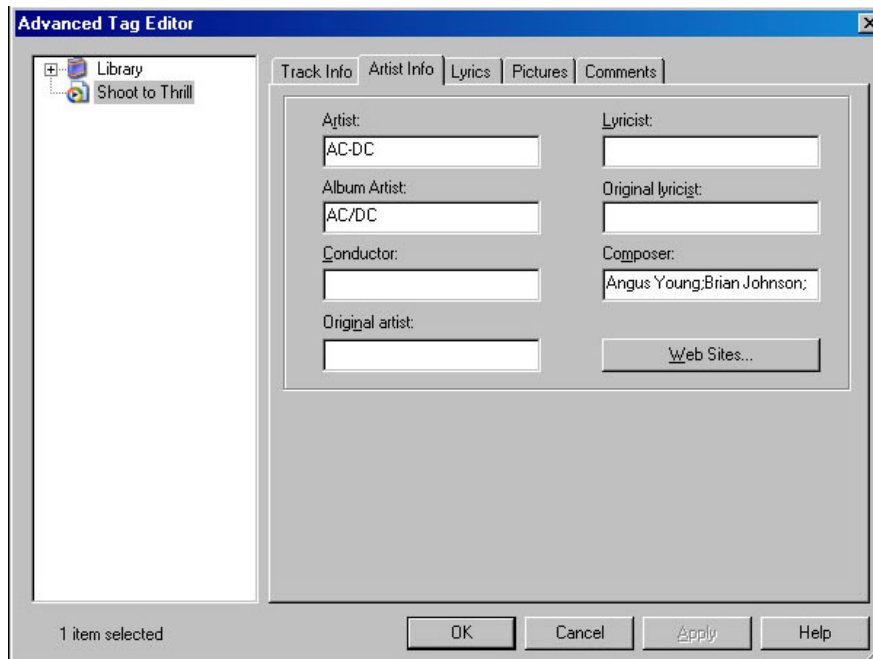
If you want to edit the “album artist” tag, this can only be done in Windows Media Player or iTunes. Examples of how to change the “album artist” are shown below.

Windows Media Player (WMP) 10

1. Select the MP3's that require the album artist tag to be changed in the “Now Playing List” column on the right hand side of the WMP window. Right click the MP3's and select “Advanced Tag Editor.”



2. Select the “Artist Info” tab in the new Window. The text box underneath “Artist” is the “Track Artist” tag. The text box underneath “Album Artist” is the “Album Artist” tag. Change these to whatever you desire and press “OK.”

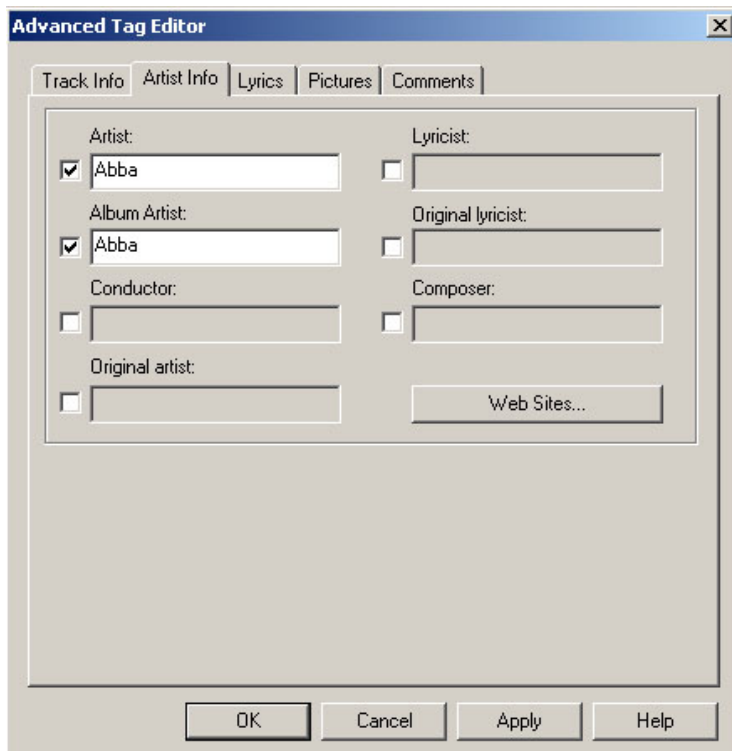


Windows Media Player (WMP) 11

1. In the “Library” tab, where all your content is listed, select the tracks within the album you want to change, right click and select “Advanced Tag Editor.”



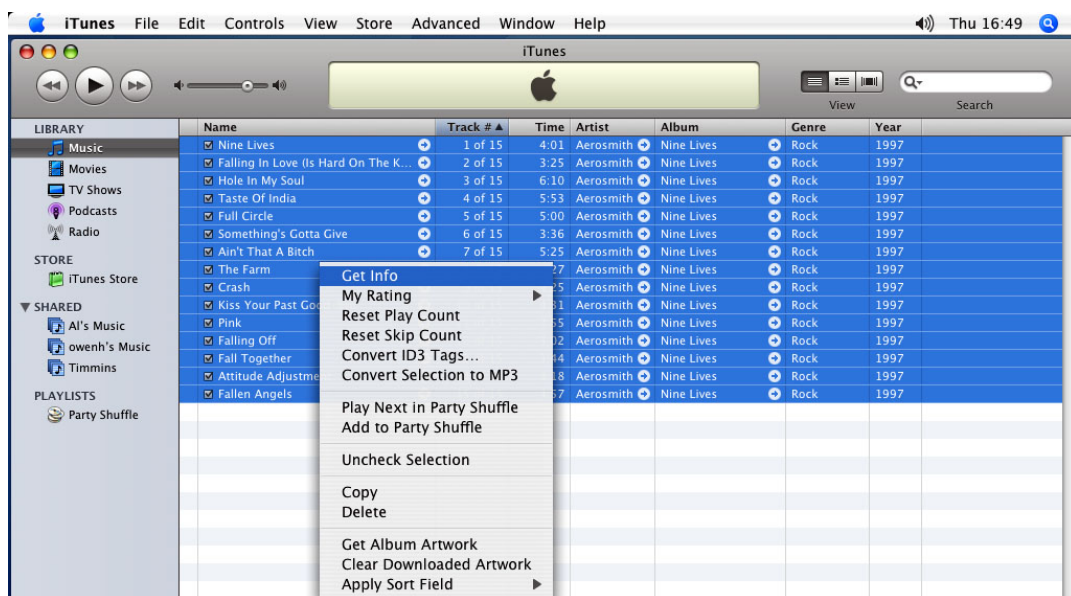
2. Select the “Artist Info” tab in the new Window. The text box underneath “Artist” is the “Track Artist” tag. The text box underneath “Album Artist” is the “Album Artist” tag. Change these to whatever you desire and press “OK.”



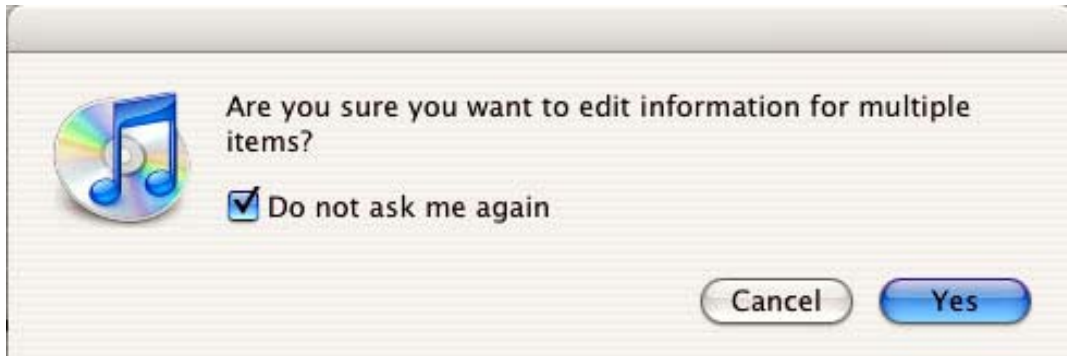
iTunes

This process applies to iTunes for Mac OS X and Windows.

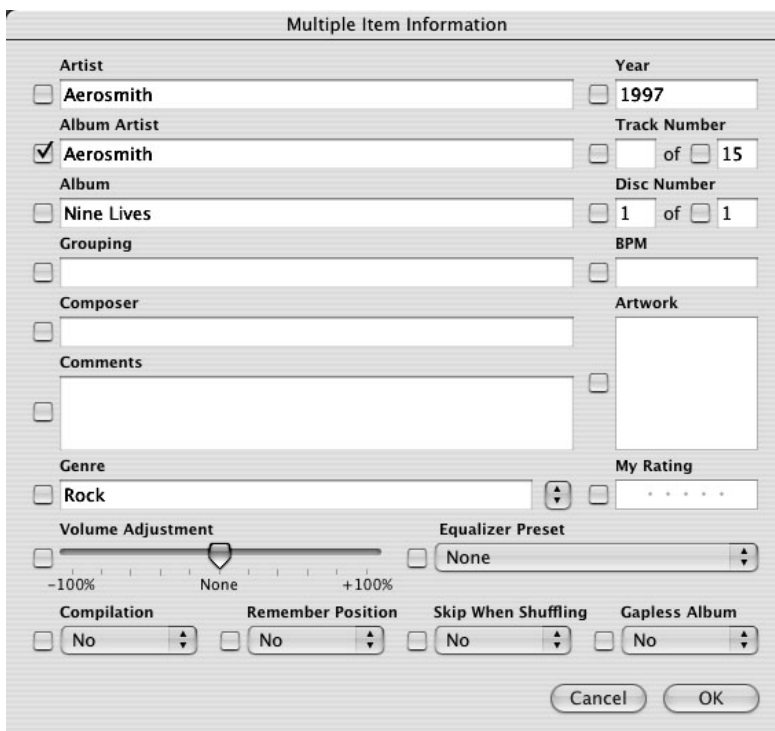
1. Highlight the album you want to edit. Right click and select “Get Info”. See picture below.



2. A window may appear asking you to confirm you want to edit multiple items. Press the “Yes” button. See picture below.



3. In the window that now appears, the “Artist” text box is the “Track Artist”. The “Album Artist” text box is the “Album Artist”. Please change these to whatever you desire and press “OK”.



This process is complete.