

The following is a step-by-step guide to the way I use the music player. There are probably much quicker and flashier ways of getting it to work but this works for me and if you're having problems with the player, I hope this will help. Full details follow:

Before we start we need to decide where we will be linking to. I use the Wordpress upload, so I will explain how I do it from there. I imagine the basic mechanics are the same regardless of where you're linking to, so where I say WP link, substitute your own hosting service link.

Let's start with the songs.

A good idea is to put all the songs in one folder. That way you can use the Flash uploader option in WP and upload them all at the same time. It also makes them easier to find during the upload process. So, open a new folder (no need to name it) on your desk top and pop all the songs (in mp3 format) in there. The songs must be mp3's for the player to work.

Now go to the 'Spill and click on the new post option.

Uploading the songs

Make sure you are in HTML (there are two tabs at the top of the new post interface. Click on the HTML one).

Click on the "musical notes" icon. A dialogue box will open. Choose the option upload from computer (There are three – from computer, from URL and from Gallery). Find the file with all your songs in it and select them all (you can do this in the Flash uploader option – in the browser version you have to do them one by one). They will then start uploading. This takes some time so it's probably a good idea to go off for a cuppa or comment on RR.

Once they've finished uploading you will see that the dialogue box has disappeared and that your post is blank. Do not panic.

If you click on the musical notes icon you will notice that in the tab marked Gallery there will now be a number in brackets. That number should correspond to the number of songs you have uploaded. Click on the tab and a list of the songs will appear. On the right hand side of each line there is the word “show”. Click on this word and a new dialogue box appears. This includes info about the music file you have uploaded. There is an option four lines or so down marked **Link URL**.

If you don't want a player but hotlinks (ones that redirect to another page and play the song there – a bit like the link option we use on RR) do nothing more than click on the Insert into post option.

If, on the other hand you want links that you can use in a player, then just copy the link that appears in the box and paste it into the post. I just paste all the links into the post at this stage and then do the fiddly bits later.

Here are the fiddly bits

To create a player:

From now on, I don't use **ANY** of the editing buttons. In HTML I type **ALL OF THE FOLLOWING** in the body of the post.

STEP ONE:

Open the player:

Type: [audio

and press the SPACE BAR once

STEP TWO

To add the first track:

Paste the link you copied from the WP uploader. If, like me, you have just pasted these links willy nilly into the body of the post after uploading it's a good idea to use cut and paste to avoid having stray links lying around after you've finished doing the player.

STEP THREE

To add further tracks:

Type a comma after the first link and then paste the next one. Do this until all the tracks you want are in the player with a comma between the links. Don't put a comma after the last link .

DECISION TIME!!!

If you want to add the names of the tracks and artists, we still have a bit of work to do! If you are happy to put the track listing elsewhere in the post or this is a quiz, we have finished.

STEP FOUR

To close the player without further information, type:

]

If you want to add track and artist information we continue as follows (IGNORING STEP FOUR):

STEP FIVE

To add track names:

after pasting the final link, leave a space and then type:

|titles=

Then type the name of the first track. Then a comma, then the next track and so on to the end. Do not put a comma after the last title.

Bear in mind that the comma is essential to separate links, track names and artist names. If the track names or artist names have commas in them - LEAVE THEM OUT. They will only "confuse" the player and stop it from working properly.

STEP SIX

To add artist names, type:

|artists=

and follow the same procedure as for track names.

STEP SEVEN

To close the player type:

]