

Merge-Delete Playlists

v5.3

For iTunes 11+/macOS 10.12+
Find more free AppleScripts
and info on writing your own
at Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes.

This script will allow you to merge the track contents of two or more playlists or delete any number of playlists at once, including Smart, Genius, and Playlist Folders.

For macOS 10.12 and later only.

This app is free to try full-featured for 10 days. If you like it you can purchase a code for \$1.99 which will unlock the 10 day trial restriction. Launch the app and click "Register..." in its File menu to make an in-app purchase through PayPal.

Installation:

This script is an **AppleScript applet** and can be run by double-clicking its icon in the Finder. However, it is probably best accessed from the iTunes Script menu.

Put AppleScripts in your iTunes "Scripts" folder. This is located at *[user name] / Library / iTunes / Scripts /*.

*The user Library directory is hidden by default. To make it visible, hold down the Option key on your keyboard and select **Go > Library** from the Finder.*

If the *[user name] / Library /* folder does not contain the "iTunes" or "Scripts" folders then then create them and put the script(s) in the "Scripts" folder. AppleScripts will then appear in iTunes' Script menu, and can be activated by selecting by name and

clicking. Be sure to also save this Read Me document in a safe and convenient place.

See the online Download FAQ for more info and video on downloading and installing AppleScripts.

How to use:

Launch the script. Its main window will display a list of your current playlists.

- Empty playlists will be displayed in **red text**.
- Apple Music playlist names will be *italicized*.
- Mouse-over a playlist's name to display a tooltip with that playlist's **track count**.
- Keyboard shortcuts:

Command-A - Select All

Shift-Command-A - Select None

Command-R - Refresh list

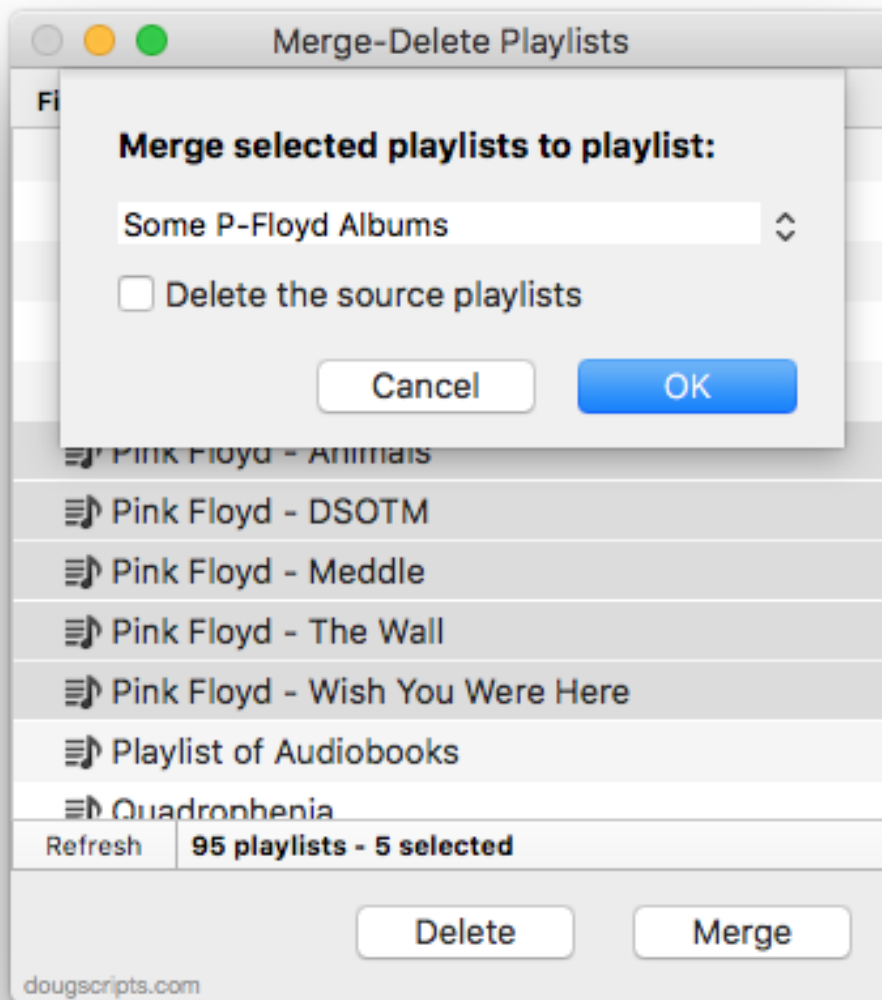
Command-M - Merge

Command-Delete - Delete Selected

Command-Q - Quit

Merge:

The **Merge** option will copy all the tracks from the selected playlists into another new or existing playlist:



Select two or more playlists in the list and click the "Merge" button (or press the **Command-M** keyboard shortcut).

In the drop-down panel, select a target playlist into which to merge the tracks of each selected playlist by clicking the arrow buttons and choosing one from the menu. The target playlist can be any existing playlist *including one of the selected playlists*. **Or** you can create a new playlist by entering a name in the text box.

You can optionally choose to delete the selected source playlists after the merge. Use this option *thoughtfully*.

Click the **OK** button to proceed with the merge.

- If the target playlist happens to be one of the selected playlists it will **not** be deleted if the "Delete source playlists" option is checkmarked.

- If a Playlist Folder is one of the selected playlists (or is the *only* selected playlist) its *entire* track contents will be copied to the target playlist during the merge.
- The script will ensure that if two or more of the same track are in different selected playlists that only one of them will be merged to the target playlist.

After a few moments, the tracks will have been merged to the selected target playlist.

Delete:

Select one or more playlists and click the "Delete" button (or press the **Command-Delete** keyboard shortcut).

The selected playlists will be removed from iTunes—the tracks they contain, of course, will remain in the library and will not be deleted.

Filter:

Limit the playlists displayed in the list to only those whose names contain the text entered in the **Filter** field. When the **Filter** is used, playlists are listed individually; Playlist Folder hierarchies are ignored.

Notes:

- During regular use, if you add or delete playlists with iTunes, use the "Refresh" button (or the "Refresh" command in the File menu or press the **Command-R** keyboard shortcut) to update the list of playlists. Otherwise, the list of playlists will not be updated until a Merge or Delete command is performed or until the script is re-launched.
- **Merging tracks from Apple Music playlists** will ultimately fail *unless* the Apple Music tracks have been added to the Library. You may have noticed this behavior when manually building playlists.
- **If you choose to delete a Playlist Folder then *all the playlists it contains will also be deleted*.** This is just how iTunes works. If you want to preserve the playlists in a Playlist Folder which you intend to delete, move the playlists *out* of the Playlist Folder *before* running this script. You can drag a playlist within a Playlist Folder to the

left side of the Playlist column to extricate it from the containing folder.

- **More precautions for Playlist Folders** – if the selected playlists contain a Playlist Folder which contains the target playlist and the delete option is selected, the target Playlist Folder *will be deleted* by virtue of being contained by a Playlist Folder set to be deleted.

- I have sometimes, though rarely, experienced a cloud-related "boomerang" effect whereby playlists that have just been deleted return several moments later from the cloud. I do not know any more about this phenomenon than that.

Helpful Links:

Information and download link for this script is located at:

<https://dougscripsts.com/itunes/scripts/ss.php?sp=batchdeleteplaylists>

If you have any trouble with this script, please email me.

My name is Doug Adams

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Version History:

v5.3 sept 17, 2018

- Initial accommodations for macOS 10.14 Mojave
- Minor performance and security enhancements

v5.2 sept 3, 2017

- Initial accommodations for macOS 10.13 High Sierra
- Minor performance and security enhancements

v5.1 june 14, 2017

- Restores Apple Music playlists detection
- Improved handling/display of Apple Music playlists
- Fixes bug preventing selection of empty Playlist Folder
- Minor improvements

v5.0 june 6, 2017

- Now ten-day trial version
- Adds heirarchical playlist display
- Some UI changes

v4.3 may 24, 2017

- Fixes compatibility issue with macOS 10.12.5

v4.2 nov 17, 2016

- Adds ability to select a single folder playlist to Merge
- Minor maintenance
- This version is for macOS 10.10 and later only

v4.1 nov 15, 2015

- Adds Filter field
- Displays empty playlists in red text
- Correctly distinguishes Genius and Smart playlists in iTunes 12.2 and later

v4.0 july 10, 2015

- Preliminary support for OS X 10.11 (El Capitan)
- Accommodates changes in iTunes 12.2
- Resets "Delete source playlists" checkbox for each merge
- Additional minor performance fixes

v3.3 may 20, 2014

- fixes issues running under Mavericks
- fixes issue re-enabling after delete

v3.2 jul 23, 2012

- compatible with OS X 10.8 (Mountain Lion)

v3.1 feb 14, 2012

- minor interface changes
- now stay-open, floats above iTunes

v3.0 aug 11, 2011

- written as Cocoa-AppleScript applet for OS X 10.6 and 10.7 only
- adds merge feature
- succeeds "Batch-Delete Playlists"
- iPod playlists no longer supported

v2.1 aug 28, 2009

- addresses "none/all" issue <https://dougscripts.com/itunes/itinfo/noneallissue.php>

v2.0 jun 10, 2008

- runs as universal binary
- fixed some minor issues when running on Leopard OS
- performance fixes and finessings

v1.0 oct 31 2005

- initial release

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