Tracks Without Embedded Artwork

v1.8

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

MP3, AAC and ALAC **audio files** have the capability to store artwork image data internally as metadata. This applet will examine the files of the selected tracks (or of the tracks in the selected playlist) for artwork metadata. Eligible audio tracks whose files do not contain artwork metadata will be copied to a new discrete playlist.

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 the 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:

Select some tracks or select a playlist in iTunes and launch the script.

Click the **Start** button to begin scanning the selected tracks or tracks in the selected playlist. Each track's file will be checked for artwork metadata. Tracks of files that are **capable** of storing artwork as metadata **but do not contain** artwork metadata will be copied to a playlist named "_Tracks_Without_Embedded_Artwork".

Each time the applet is run it will recreate this playlist.

To abort the current scan, click the **Stop** button.

You can check the **Console.app** for messages from the script. It will log each track's file location–if accessible–and whether or not the file contains artwork metadata.

False positives?

I have found that the script is accurate when reporting if a file contains artwork metadata. But *sometimes*, even though a file does contain artwork metadata, iTunes or the Finder may not recognize it. I do not know why this is. Corruption?

For the most part, if a file contains artwork metadata, the Finder will display it as an icon for the file. You can also check a file's Get Info panel and check the Preview pane or, when a Finder window is in Column View the preview panel for the file will display it.

Notes:

• The app checks **MP3**, **AAC** and **ALAC** audio files for artwork metadata. Other track/file types will be ignored. **MP3** files with older ID3 tag versions may not be capable of storing image data in their metadata and will be ignored.

• Just because a track has *assigned* artwork in iTunes does not necessarily mean that the artwork is embedded as metadata in the track's file. This script does not detect if a track has assigned artwork or not.

• This applet **does not** affect how the Finder **may or may not** display a file's icon image.

Helpful Links:

Information and download link for this script is located at:
https://dougscripts.com/itunes/scripts/ss.php?sp=trackswithoutembedded

If you have any trouble with this script, please email me.
My name is Doug Adams
support@dougscripts.com

Click on the underlined URL text:

- Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes
- Assign Shortcut Keys to AppleScripts
- Doug's RSS Feed - **Recent site news, script additions and updates** (add link to your news reader)
- 30 Most Recent RSS Feed - **Most recent new and updated scripts** (add link to your news reader)

Version History:

v1.8 sept 18 2018
- Initial accommodations for macOS 10.14 Mojave
- Minor performance and security enhancements

v1.7 sept 2 2017
- Initial accommodations for macOS 10.13 High Sierra
- Minor performance and security enhancements

v1.6 may 22 2017

- Fixes compatibility issue with macOS 10.12.5

v1.5 november 23 2016
- Minor maintenance
- This version for macOS 10.10 and later only

v1.4 june 21 2016
- Preliminary support for macOS 10.12
- Security update

v1.3 may 21 2016
- Accommodates changes in iTunes 12.4
- Maintenance and security enhancements

v1.2 aug 31 2015
- Fixes issue reading older ID3 tag versions
- Fixes issue with OS X 10.8 compatibility

v1.1 aug 6 2015
- Preliminary support for OS X 10.11 (El Capitan)
- Accommodates changes in iTunes 12.2

v1.0 nov 25 2014
- Initial release

This doc last updated September 18 2018