CK's Evenly-shuffled Playlists (Version 0.06)

By Charles Kelly
June 8, 2003
See the following web page to see if a newer version is available.
http://www.manythings.org/mac/

Disclaimer

Use these programs at your own risk.

Requirements

These should all work using MacOS 9 with iTunes 2.04 or using MaxOS X with iTunes 2,3 or 4 (and maybe the next version, too)

Cost & Distribution

Freeware.
You may distribute this if you do not modify the programs and you include this file (unmodified) with the distribution.

Warning / Hint

These scripts may take a long time to run if your playlists are very long. Make a few short lists to try out the scripts, then you won't have to wait so long to see how they work. (Once the script starts running, you can click over to iTunes and watch as the tunes are added into the new playlist.)

What the 3 AppleScripts Do

Briefly, they take pre-created playlists and evenly shuffle them together into a new playlist. The pre-created playlist are not affected.

Alternating 2 to 4 Playlists
 - This script will easily let you create a "battle of the bands" playlist alternating between 2 artists. (Or up to 4 artists.)
 - You define your playlists, then a new playlist is created that alternates between them.
 - NOTE: This script will quit running when all the tunes in the shortest list

have been used. If you want to use up all tunes in all lists, use my other script: "Alternating Between Many Playlists"

Alternating Many Playlists
 - This script lets you alternate between 2 playlists or up to 26 playlists.
 - NOTE: This script will run until you use up all tunes in all lists, so it may take a long time.

Alternating 2 to 4 Genres
 - With this script you can easily make a playlist that alternates between Rock and Country, or Jazz, Rock and Country, etc.
 - The script grabs the tunes out of the library using the "genre" tag.
 - NOTE: This script will quit running when one of the genre lists runs out. In other words, if you have 2 rock tunes and 100 country tunes, the list will only be 4 tunes long.

How Do I Use the Scripts?

This makes a new playlist that evenly alternates between lists named 01, 02, 03, 04
If you only want to merge 2 lists, then only make 01 and 02.
If you only want to merge 3 lists, then only make 01, 02 and 03.

QUICK START (Make a "Battle of the Bands" playlist.)
If you just want to see one thing that this script can do, then try this.
- 1. Make a playlist named "01" Put 5 or so tunes by one artist in this playlist.
- 2. Make a playlist named "02" Put 5 or so tune by another artist in this playlist.
- 3. Click the "RUN" button of the "Alternating Between 2 to 4 Genres" AppleScript.
- 4. A playlist named "•Evenly Shuffled Playlist" will be created that alternates between the 2 artists.
- 5. Make sure that you have the "Shuffle" function turned off in the playlist, before listening.

NOTE: The "Alternating Between 2 to 4 Genres" AppleScript will quit running when all the tunes in the shortest list have been used. If you want to use up all tunes in all lists, use my other script: "Alternating Between Many

Playlists"

QUICK START 2 (Make another shuffled playlist.)
- 1. Rename the "•Evenly Shuffled Playlist" that you already created to something else.
- 2. Delete the previously created 01 and 02 playlists (or rename them).
- 3. Using "New Smart Playlist" under the "File" menu (of iTunes 3 or newer) create these lists.
----- Genre contains "Rock", Limit to 25 songs selected by random. Name this "01" (don't include quotes).
----- Genre contains "Reggae", Limit to 25 songs selected by random. Name this "02"
----- Genre contains "Jazz", Limit to 25...... Name this "03"
----- Genre contains "Country", ... Name this "04"
- 4. Run this script.
- 5. Wait. Wait. (If you have a lot of tunes, this may take a while.)
- 6. A playlist named "•Evenly Shuffled Playlist" will be created that alternates between all these lists.
- 7. Rename this new playlist something like "Evenly Shuffled Genres"

QUICK START 3 (Make another shuffled playlist.)
- 1. Double-click the "Alternating Between 2 to 4 Genres CK-0.04" icon.
- 2. If you have tunes in your library that have "Rock" and "Country" in the genre tag, then just click the "Run" button, and wait while the new playlist is generated.
- 3. Oredit the following part of the AppleScript to include 2 genres that you have in your "library." Then click "run."

-- You may rename the playlists here, if you like. (Be careful with your spelling.)
set Playlist01 to "Rock"
set Playlist02 to "Country"

SUGGESTED USES
- You can make smarter "shuffled" playlists, since no 2 songs on the same playlist will ever appear consecutively on the new playlist.
- Shuffle 2 playlists togehter to make a "Battle of the Bands" playlist in which every other song is by one of the artist.
- Put your favorite songs in one list and your spouse's favorites in another, then shuffle the 2 lists together.

- Put your newly acquired CD's MP3s in one list and your old stuff in a new list, then shuffle.
- Evenly shuffle genres: 01 = Jazz, 02 = Rock, 03 = Metal, 04 = Country
- Evenly shuffle artists
- Alternate between fast and slow tunes.
- Alternate between loud and quite tunes.

See other ideas for playlists at:
http://www.manythings.org/mac/
itunes_playlist_ideas.html

WHY I WROTE THESE

I wanted "smarter" playlists that allowed for a more evenly-distributed variety of music.

Updates

0.06 - Documentation updated. AppleScripts are still all 0.04
         Changed filenames to work for MacOS 9 users.

0.05 - Documentation updated.

0.04 - I had a few friends check out the scripts to see if they could easily figure out how to use them.