

Needle Drop

v7.7

For macOS 11+/Music v1.1+
Find more free AppleScripts
and info on writing your own
at dougscripsts.com.

This applet plays each track in the selected Music playlist for a set time interval optionally starting at a set number of seconds into each track, beginning with the selected track. Handy for 'scoping playlists.

Universal, for macOS 11 and later only.

This script is Donationware. If you use it and like it please consider making a donation to support my AppleScripting efforts. [Click here for more info.](#)

Installation:

This script, "Needle Drop", is an **AppleScript applet** and can be run by double-clicking its icon in the Finder. Thus, it can be installed anywhere you find it convenient to access. However, it is probably best accessed from the Music Script menu, from where it can be launched by clicking its name.

To make an AppleScript available in your **Music app's** Script menu, install it in the Music "Scripts" folder. This is located at `[user name] / Library / Music / Scripts /`. **Music app** will look for AppleScripts in this folder.

*The user Library directory may be 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 "Music" folder or the "Scripts" folder, then create them and put the script(s) in the "Scripts" folder. AppleScripts will

then appear in the Music app's 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.

Security & Privacy Settings

During operation, this script will need access to "System Events", an Accessibility application that can be controlled by AppleScript. Controlling "System Events" will enable the script to push buttons, click menu items and perform other interface-related actions—purely related to its essential operation only. When the script is launched for the first time an alert will ask you to change a setting in the *System Settings > Privacy & Security > Accessibility* panel. Click on the lock to enter your password to enable the list of apps. Then, put a checkmark in the checkbox next to this script in the list. Dismiss System Settings. You will most likely need to quit and re-launch the script.

By the same token: because interface elements can change in future versions of the Music app, it is possible for the script to fail if expected interface elements have been rearranged or no longer exist.

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

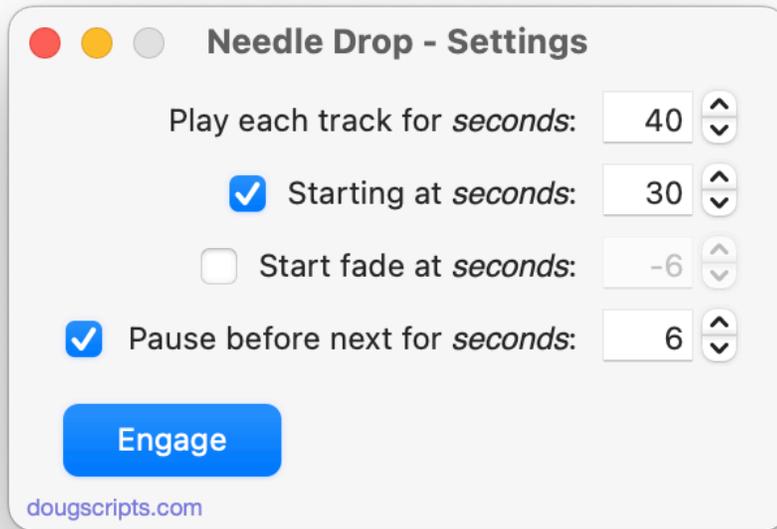
How to use:

FOR BEST RESULTS: The **Playing Next** queue in the Music app should be cleared. The script will attempt to take care of this itself when the "**Engage**" button is clicked (see later below).

Select a playlist in Music the tracks of which you want **Needle Drop** to play. Optionally, select a track in the playlist from which to begin playing; if no track is selected then play will commence with the first track of the selected playlist.

Note: **Needle Drop** will work best on tracks that have local files. **Tracks that must stream or download from the cloud** may upset the timing while their audio is being cached.

Launch the **Needle Drop** applet and its main settings window will appear:



Enter settings:

Play each track for *seconds* - the number of seconds to play each track (*duration*). This will include the *fade duration*, if used.

Starting at *seconds* - (*when check marked*) the number of seconds from the beginning of a track to start playing it.

Start fade at *seconds* - (*when check marked*) the number of seconds before the end of *duration* to start fading (*fade duration*). The volume will gradually decrease to zero from this point to the end of *duration*.

Pause before next for *seconds* - (*when check marked*) the number of seconds to wait before playing the next track.

For example, using the settings in the screenshot above, each track:

- ...will play for **:40** seconds total
- ...will start playing at the track's **:30** mark
- ...will begin fading after **:34** seconds ($40 - 6 = 34$)
- ...will wait **:06** seconds before playing the next track

Settings are saved between launches.

When the settings are acceptable, click the "**Engage**" button. Its name will change to "**Stop**".

Needle Drop will stay running and compel the Music app to play the tracks in the selected playlist in order starting with the first track (or from the first *selected* track). Press the "**Stop**" button to dis-engage **Needle Drop**.

When running, the "**...and stop Music**" checkbox will be visible. If checked when the "**Stop**" button is pressed, the Music app will stop playing and select the next track in the playlist.

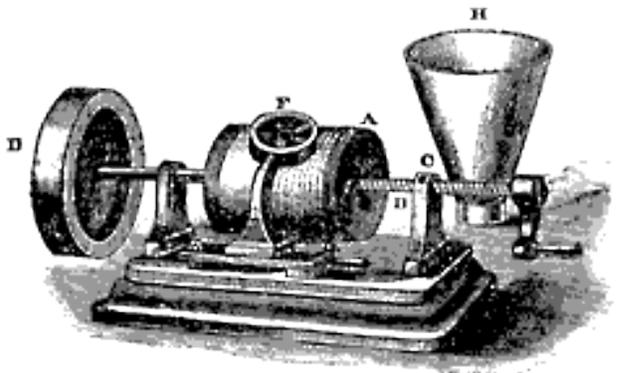
To Quit:

- Choose Quit from the **Needle Drop** Application menu or press **Command-Q** or click its close button. Or, Control-click/Right-click its icon in the Dock and choose Quit from the pop-up.

Playing Next:

- Again, for best results, be sure to clear the Playing Next queue. The script will attempt to do this itself whenever the "**Engage**" button is clicked.

How it works:



Helpful Links:

Information and download link for this script is located at:

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

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

My name is Doug Adams

support@dougscripsts.com

Click on the underlined URL text:

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- 30 Most Recent RSS Feed - **Most recent new and updated scripts** (add link to your news reader)

Recent Version History:

v7.7 June 30, 2023

- Corrects UI Scripting issue that may have prevented operation
- Tested with macOS Sonoma 14

v7.6 January 4, 2023

- Maintenance and minor performance fixes
- Accommodations for macOS 13 Ventura

v7.5 September 20, 2021

- Accommodation for macOS 12 Monterey
- Minor performance and UI enhancements

v7.4 March 26, 2021

- This version for macOS 11 and later only
- Adds "Clear Playing Next" as a convenience routine

v7.3 November 3, 2020

- Additional accommodations for macOS 11 Big Sur

v7.2 July 26, 2020

- Accommodations for macOS 11 Big Sur
- Performance, UI and security enhancements

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This doc last updated June 30, 2023

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