

MC Portable Library Instructions

EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE FORMAT

Portable Drives – If you are looking to make a portable drive to **use with your Mac and other operating systems like Windows**, choose **exFAT**. If you are only working with Macs, you can format your drive to **HFS with the Mac OS Extended option**.

COPYING MC LIBRARY TO EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

1) BE SURE to TURN OFF Auto Import (in MC)!!

Tools > Options > Library & Folders > uncheck Run auto-import in background.

2) Copy Music DB from PC/Mac to external HD “E” along with Library Backup. Music will be stored on portable HD.

3) When connecting portable HD to MAC or PC, may need to rename drive to “E”

4) Run Library > Restore Library using Library Backup on external HD. Be sure to uncheck Restore Settings or it will change all settings to default.

5) Verify Auto-Import is still off.

6) Add Portable Library Rule: File > Library > Portable Library > Add Rule >

For source library located on portable drive (portable drive created on PC)

On PC: Rule 1 = none

On Mac: Rule 1 = E:/Volumes/E

For source library located on C:\... (PC)

On PC: Rule 1 = C:\Users\susie\E:

On Mac: Rule 1 = C:\Users\susie|\Volumes/E

It may take some time for everything to be recognized so it is playable.

Test by: R-Click a song > Locate > On Disk (external) and song should be identified on the external HD. This will give you the path it is looking in and you should be able to tell if there is an issue with PL Rule syntax.

In Audio View, the path will remain as in the original Library Backup (i.e.

C:\users\susie), however in RM&CF the path should be pointing to the external HD.

DO NOT run any RM&CF functions!

- 7) Check if all Thumbnail have been rebuilt...
Help > System Info > check if all Thumbnails built... should be 100%.
- 8) If necessary Rebuild Thumbnails: Tools > Cover Art > Rebuild Thumbnails
- 9) DO NOT change File Locations to point to Portable drive.

NOTE:

After Portable Library Rule has been added correctly, the Base Path showing in Audio view, should still be pointing to the actual media. Entering in the Portable Library Rule just tells MC where to look for the files. It is just like any file backup process, but puts the MC Library and Settings into a ZIP file rather than backing up the files to another location. You can't open that ZIP file as a Library, until you Restore it into an existing Library.

Edits cannot be made on MAC – they will delete files on external HD.

RoderickGI: Leave the Base Path alone. Using that will mean that you need to set up the rule for the path, and potentially move files. Uncheck all checkboxes other than the "Find & Replace" checkbox.

Just use the Find & Replace function in RM&CF, and the "Update database to point to new location (no file rename, move, or copy)" option, rather than actually renaming or moving the files. That is the fastest and best option when actually changing the location in the Library where MC will look for media files.

To move the Library to the E: drive you would have to create a new Library on the E: drive using the "Add Library" function, and then Restore one of your backups into that new Library. Then turn off the setting in MC that says always load the Default Library (in Startup Options), then load the new Library. After that MC would always load the last Library it was using, which would be the Library on E:, unless you changed that at some time.

Note also that the location of a Library isn't defined in the "File Location" Options. That is for other stuff. The location of the Library is defined when you "Create" a new Library. This is not recommended for multi-platform (i.e. Mac & PC) use as it's likely to run too slow. That said, once everything is working, and you understand everything I have written above, you could create a Library on the E: drive to test if it is too slow. You can always backup that Library and go back to using the Libraries on the PC and Mac drives, if it was too slow. But if you do test and go back, delete the Library on the E:

drive to avoid confusion in future.

<https://yabb.jriver.com/interact/index.php/topic,126123.msg876371.html#new>
https://wiki.jriver.com/index.php/Library_Manager

Cover Art

Susie: Am I doing the right thing leaving all File Locations pointing locally on the PC & Mac rather than to E: or /Volumes/E/? I'm wondering what the effect would be if I changed them all to point to E: or /Volumes/E/ respectively.

Roderick: I think, but haven't fully checked, a lot of those location settings are MC installation specific, rather than part of the Library. I'm not sure. I would be leaving them pointing locally unless there was an issue with some functionality. Most of them are just defaults for actions you can take in MC, and you don't have to use the default when you actually take those actions. Cover Art may benefit from being moved to the external drive, as I think I mentioned earlier. But I'm not sure the PL rule would be applied to looking up Cover Art. The "Conversion Cache" and "Program Files" settings are sort of in the same boat. You would have to test that. It could be a mini project.

The Thumbnails Database is always located on the computer where MC is installed. It is tied to the MC installation. You can't change where it is located. MC builds and updates the Thumbnails Database when it needs to. You will always have Thumbnail Databases on each of your computers.

You can only move the Cover Art location. Of course, for Audio files where the Cover Art is inside the file or next to the media file in the same folder, there is no issue. The Cover Art is on the external drive and moves with it.

For other Cover Art, such as for TV Shows (Series and Season Cover Art), TV Logos, Artist and Composer images, Home Videos and downloaded YouTube videos, etc., right now you probably do have three sets of Cover Art images, one on each computer. If that isn't an issue, leave it alone. If you need Cover Art for those media types, and you start seeing issues, ask for help again. ***Moving the Cover Art location in Library settings can be disastrous, deleting files, or whole drives, if you aren't careful.*** Moving the location from three computers onto one external hard drive would need a specific approach. So, for now, don't if you don't need to.

Editing:

File Rename, Move, or Copy done on the Mac need to be done in two steps:

- 1) Perform rename, move, or copy the file using the "Rename (moves files if directory changes)" function then...

- 2) Fix the "broken" [Filename] field using the "Update database to point to new location (no file rename, move, or copy)" function. As those are two different functions, the two steps can't be done together.

Making External HD the Primary drive:

It is okay to delete all files from all PC's & Mac, but first:

But before you do that, get the external drive working with PC#1. On PC#1 use RM&CF with the "Update database to point to new location (no file rename, move, or copy)" option to change "C:\Users\susie\" to "E:\". **Make a Library Backup first, because the PL functionality may not work after this change, as per below.** Restart MC and check if it's working. It should work exactly like PC#2. You should be able to leave the current PL rules as they are during this change. They won't come into effect.

If Yes, what would my new Portable Library Rule look like?

Once you have PC#1 working properly, change your PL rule in PC#1 to only include E:|/Volumes/E. The alternate form for the rule would be E:|/Volumes/E/, but the extra slashes aren't required.

However, once you have deleted the old rules and created the one above on PC#1, restart MC and check that MC is still working on PC#1. Check on PC#2 as well. The reason to check the PCs first is that the media is now actually stored on the E:\ drive, and the MC PL rule may automatically change the media file paths to start with /Volumes/E. i.e. MC could change:

E:\Music\My Music

to

/Volumes/E/Music/My Music

which would be wrong. Use the Locate on Disk and RM&CF functions to check what MC is doing. I hope that MC checks if E:\ exists first, before applying the rule, in which case the rule will work fine on the PCs.

Then test that on the Mac. It should work fine.