

MC Tips and Tricks

(from the MC 34 Forum – Updated 04.22.2025)

The URL in the MC 34 forum for this item is:

<https://yabb.jriver.com/interact/index.php?topic=140570.0>

Hot Keys (Keyboard Short Cut List

- There is a long list of keyboard shortcuts at:
https://wiki.jriver.com/index.php/Keyboard_Hot-keys

Tree Management

- Collapse all tree items
 - Ctrl+G
- Open a tree item in a tab
 - Middle click the item in the tree

Panes

- Close a tab
 - Middle click the tab

Create a Custom Toolbar by the MC Menu to quickly view and access frequently used commands, playlists, etc.

- *Custom Toolbars* can be added at the top or bottom left of the window.
 - Right click to the right of the "Help" menu or in bottom border brings up the self-explanatory *Customize Toolbar* popup.
 - For the Options "Dim icons" and "No text labels" a mouseover brings out the color and a tooltip. Alternatively, the included options enable Full color and Text Labels. A "Clock" can be added as well.

Customize the Player Display Window (where the song title and other stuff are shown in the top center of display)

- Right click in that display area and there are alignment and various display options
- Choose "Customize Display" to further control the display windows
 - The drop-down carets (chevron) give options as to what can be used. Some very useful, some not. Customized text can also be added.

Options for Media Center

- To help find the option you are looking for among the two zillion that are available.
 - Use the search field in the options window (at the bottom)

Searching

- Ctrl-Q (or F3) brings up the quick search toolbar (appears at bottom of list)
- Filtering by playlists can be done using "p"
 - Example: p="4 Star" will include all tracks from a playlist named 4 Star.
 - -p="4 Star" will exclude all tracks from a playlist named 4 Star.

Editing

- For 'inline' editing of tags for a selection of multiple files in the list... Hold down the left mouse button and right click (with cursor on field you want to edit).
- If you select a file in a list, you can 'slow - double - click' on a field and you will be able to edit the field contents.
- F2 activates (for editing) the last field clicked on in the list, which may not be the one you want. Use TAB or Shift+TAB to get to the field you want.
- As an alternative to using shift-click to select multiple list items, ensure cursor is over blank space and then left click drag to select as many rows as desired.
 - This ability must be enabled in options. (Type "lasso" in the option search box to find this option.)
 - By default, MC uses drag with right mouse button to create a selection. The right mouse button still works with the left button setting enabled. The right mouse button way does not require a blank area to start. Right click and drag from anywhere in the list.
 - Left click directly on text selects that row only, which can then be dragged to a different list position.
- Editing "large fields" (e.g., notes, description, lyrics)
 - If you have text in the clipboard that needs to go into one of these fields, then Ctrl+Enter commits your changes. Open the field for editing, then, hold down the ctrl button, press V to paste followed by Ctrl+Enter to save (Enter just moves to a new line).

View Options

- Vertical Split View:
 - If you want a vertical split view, change default Playing Now default horizontal upper/lower split to vertical side-by-side split. Open Playing Now tab menu and select "Vertical Split".
- Cycle through display styles
 - Middle click blank area on tab bar to cycle through display styles options: list, thumbnail, tiles (works in all views, not just Playing Now)
- Set DSP window to "always on top".
 - Click "Manage plug-ins" button below the DSP category list on left side and select "always on top" from the menu.
- Horizontal scroll through a detailed list
 - Hold down shift key while rolling mouse wheel
- Freeze a column to prevent it going off screen when scrolling
 - Right-click list column header and select "Freeze Column" from the menu. Repeat to freeze multiple columns if desired.
- Autosize or custom-size a column width
 - Right-click column header menu to autosize column width. This is the same setting in Options/Tree & View/List, but when done from the list view itself, it only autosizes the column temporarily.
 - If the autosize checkbox is activated in Options, the columns will continually revert to the autosized width when they have been manually set; to stop autosizing, deactivate the checkbox in the Options dialog.
 - Right-click column header menu to save custom column order/widths.

- A seemingly infinite number of unique presets can be created with layouts dedicated for Playing Now, Audio, Images, Video, etc.
- Saving (and Loading) View Tabs
 - *"MC top left menus > View > Load / Save View > Save > (set name)"* quickly saves the current set of View Tabs with a unique (or old) name.
 - Allows recovery if the view gets messed up, or you just want a change: *"View > Load / Save View > (set name)"* quickly restores all View Tabs in the selected set!
- Quick Switch to Display View (and Back)
 - Double clicking in the Display Panel in Standard or Cover View will switch MC into Display View and when in Display View. Double clicking on the Display Panel will take you back to Previous View.
 - (Does not work if TrackInfo Plugin is in use.)
- Toggle between views (standard, mini, display, theater, cover)
 - Use Ctrl+1, through Ctrl + 5 respectively to toggle between views

Player controls

- Change volume
 - Scrolling mouse wheel over volume bar to increase/decrease volume. Scrolling over Player Bar text also increases/decreases volume
 - Left click and drag is another option
- fast forward/rewind
 - Scroll mouse wheel over progress bar
 - Left click and draft is another option
- Keyboard control of pause/play
 - *<Spacebar> toggles play/resume <--> pause playback.*
 - If it does not work, or if you are editing a text entry, left click on an empty area in the Player Bar to change focus.
- Stop Player at end of the current song
 - Middle click the player bar stop button

Other

- Restart MC (and server if it's running)
 - Middle click the "Close" button (the "X" in the top right corner)
 - Alternative to the above restart method is to use the "Custom Toolbar" (see that topic, above) and add the "Relaunch Media Center" button. Then just left click that button.