

Give artists your money! Especially small artists!



November 2025 "Oly WA"



Spotify WRAPPED

# HARD MODE

Alternatives to streaming subscription services

The 1st wrapped zine\* offered alternative streaming services to Spotify. This one will explore alternatives to the subscription streaming service model.

I recommend Qobuz if you wanna use a streaming service! It's the least ethically dubius one (for the moment). You can transfer your existing playlists/saved albums/artists from other services.

If you're ready to try something different, read on!

\*That zine went viral, & I was inundated with people's opinions on how all the alternatives were Also Bad. Qobuz hasn't committed any atrocities so far to the best of my knowledge. Also, I Simply Forgot to list Soundcloud, which people were very mad about. I'm just a guy, y'all.

## Physical media

CDs, records, tapes!







### Where to find 'em:

★ Direct from the artist!
(Bandcamp, at a show)

★ Independent record stores

★ Independent labels★ Discogs.com

\* Your local library - Free!

\* Thrift stores - cheap

rip CDs if you still have a disk drive or invest in an external one! Then the mp3s are yours forever:)



### How to get 'em:



(Sometimes free or pay what you can, best way to benefit the artist)

- ★ Soundcloud
- \* Rip from CDs
- \* Rip from the web

(Type "rip from \_\_\_\_\_" into a search engine

to rip songs from youtube etc)

★ Shared from friends

(Three cheers for thumb drives!)

★ Peer to peer file sharing

(Remember Napster? Limewire? That's P2P)





You can use Soulseek for peer to peer file sharing

It's a free program.

Best for finding specific albums vs vibes or playlists.

Make sure to share your files in the settings, some folks won't allow you to download if you're not also sharing.

There's not much sketchy stuff on there, but be sure to inspect files before downloading to make sure they are what they say they are.

## What do I do with all these MP3s?



### Listen!

- ★ Listen on your computer (I use MusicBee)
- ★ Get a refurbished iPod or modern MP3 player
- ★ Put files on your phone if space allows
- ★ Use an app like iBroadcast (add mp3s from your computer, stream 'em from your phone).

## Self hosted server skill level 1

- ★ Use Jellyfin or Plex (Jellyfin is free)
- \* Best if you have a PC lying around that can be left on all the time, but you can use yr laptop
- ★ Make an account, download the program and follow the startup guide
- **★**I use the Finamp app to listen to my whole music library from my phone!

## Honorable mentions

### Independent radio! College radio!

Lots of radio stations stream online. Discover playlists handcrafted by humans :)

#### Last.fm

Keeps track of your listening ("scrobbles") & provides analytics like Spotify's Wrapped, except it's free & has been around forever! Best used with Finale for Last.fm app on phones.

#### Subvert.fm

A cooperatively owned Bandcamp.

