

PRISTINE AUDIO

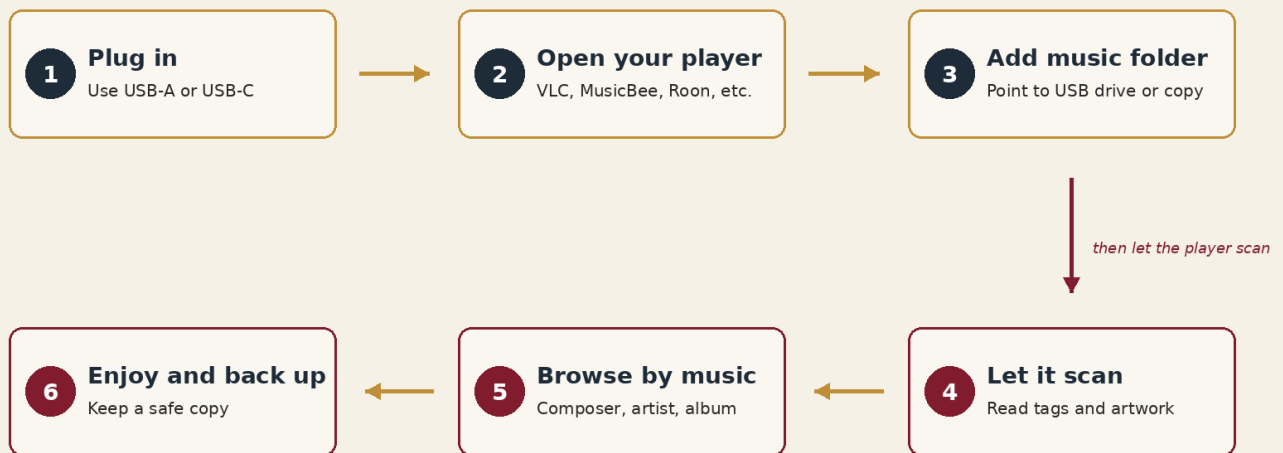
Digital Music Collection

User Guide

Quick start, setup guides, playback suggestions and troubleshooting for owners of the Pristine Audio Digital Music Collection

The Digital Music Collection in 6 steps

A simple route from USB drive to searchable music library.



The collection is ready to play once your music software has scanned the folders and read the embedded tags.

The collection is ready to play once your music software has scanned it.

In one sentence

The Digital Music Collection is a complete, DRM-free Pristine music library on a solid-state USB drive: plug it into a suitable device, let your chosen music player scan the files, and browse the collection by album, artist, composer or genre.

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Plain-English promise

This guide avoids computer jargon where possible. When a technical term is useful, it is explained in the glossary.

1. Quick start: listen in ten minutes

The fastest way to begin is to treat the USB drive exactly like a very large music library. You do not need a Pristine app, password, licence manager or special software. You only need a device that can see the USB drive and a music player that can read MP3 or FLAC files.

Important

The drive is not designed for older Apple Lightning sockets or micro-USB connections. Use the USB-A or USB-C connector on a suitable computer, phone, tablet, streamer or hub.

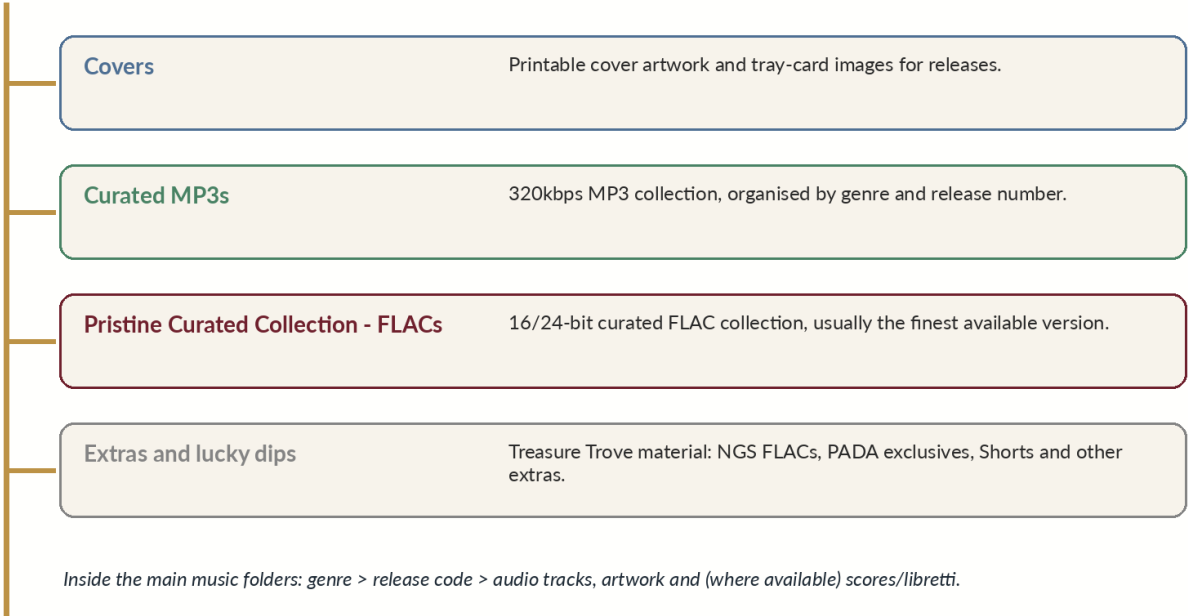
Step	What to do	Why it matters
1	Plug the USB drive into a USB-A or USB-C port.	Your computer or device should mount it like an ordinary external drive.
2	Open a music player app.	Examples include VLC for a quick test, or a library player such as MusicBee, foobar2000, JRiver, Audirvana or Roon.
3	Tell the player to add or scan the music folder.	Point it to the MP3 folder, FLAC folder, or the copied library location.
4	Wait for the scan to finish.	A large library may take time. The player is reading embedded titles, artists, composers, track numbers and artwork.
5	Browse by album, composer, performer or genre.	This is much easier than manually opening hundreds of folders.
6	Make a backup or working copy.	The original USB drive is valuable. A second copy protects you from accidents.

2. What is on the drive

The exact contents depend on which version you bought: MP3, FLAC, or the combined FLAC & MP3 collection. In all cases, the aim is the same: to give you a complete, curated Pristine library that is permanently yours and ready to play.

What you will see on the drive

Digital Music Collection USB drive



The folder names may vary slightly between MP3, FLAC and combined versions.

Folder or item	What it contains	Notes
Curated MP3s	The Pristine catalogue as 320kbps MP3 files.	Best for maximum compatibility, portable use, car systems and smaller storage.
Pristine Curated Collection - FLACs	The Pristine catalogue in curated 16/24-bit FLAC.	Best for hi-fi listening and lossless archiving. Scores and libretti are included here where available.
Covers	Front and tray-card artwork in JPG/PDF form.	Useful for printing covers or identifying releases.
Extras and lucky dips	Additional material outside the official main release sequence.	Includes Treasure Trove-style extras and historical curiosities.
Artwork within releases	Cover images and booklets inside many release folders.	Your player may also show embedded artwork while playing.

3. Choose your format and listening method

There is no single correct way to use the collection. A collector who listens on a laptop, a listener with a dedicated hi-fi streamer and a traveller using a phone may all want different routes through the same archive.

Best practice

Use the USB drive as the original archive. For everyday use, copy the collection to an internal drive, external SSD or NAS, then ask your music player to scan the copy. This reduces wear, avoids loose connections and usually makes rescans faster.

Three good ways to use the collection

- 1

Simple
USB drive -> computer/phone -> player app
Best for first listening, travel, quick browsing.
- 2

Stable
Copy to computer or external SSD -> player app
Best for regular listening and faster library scans.
- 3

Whole-house
Copy to NAS or server -> Roon/streamer/DAC
Best for hi-fi systems and multi-room playback.

Tip: the original USB drive is precious. For daily use, a copy on a computer, SSD or NAS is usually calmer.

The original USB drive can play directly, but a working copy is usually best for regular listening.

Choice	Choose this when...	Things to know
MP3	You want maximum compatibility, smaller files, portable listening or car playback.	The collection uses high-quality 320kbps MP3. This is usually accepted by almost any player.
FLAC	You want lossless sound and are using a computer, hi-fi player, streamer or app that supports FLAC.	FLAC preserves the audio quality of the curated master. Some older or very simple devices will not play it.
Both	You want a hi-fi archive and a portable copy.	Use FLAC for serious listening and MP3 for car/phone/backup convenience.

4. How the collection is organised

Inside the main music folder, releases are grouped by broad musical category and then by Pristine catalogue number. This is useful for maintenance and manual browsing, but it is not the best way to listen.

```
Main music folder
  Blues
  Chamber Music
  Compilations
  Jazz
  Keyboard Music
  Orchestral Music
  Vocal Music
    Release folder, e.g. PASC001 or PAC0123
      Audio tracks
      Artwork
      Scores or libretti, where available
```

Each release folder is intended to sort correctly and play correctly. The audio files carry embedded metadata: title, album, artist, composer, track number and artwork. Your player uses these tags to build its own searchable catalogue.

5. Using a music player: tags, not folders

A file browser such as Windows Explorer or Finder can show the drive, but it is a poor way to explore a library of this size. A music player scans the embedded tags and turns the collection into a searchable music catalogue.

Instead of...	Use your player to browse by...
Opening folder after folder	Album, composer, performer, conductor or genre
Guessing where a work is filed	Search for composer or work title
Playing tracks one by one	Play the whole album/release in track order
Looking for artwork manually	Let the player display embedded or included artwork

First scan patience

The first scan of a complete 1TB or 2TB collection can take time. Subsequent scans are usually quicker because the player has already built its database.

6. Windows setup

Quick playback

- Plug in the USB drive and note the drive letter, for example E: or F:.
- Open a player such as VLC and choose Media > Open Folder, then select the relevant music folder.
- For serious browsing, use a library player rather than a simple file player.

Library setup

- Install or open your chosen music library software. Examples include MusicBee, foobar2000, JRiver Media Center or Roon.
- Find the setting usually called Library, Music folders, Media folders, Watched folders or Add folder.
- Add the MP3 folder, the FLAC folder, or the copied library location.
- Let the player complete its scan before judging the result.
- Use the player search box to try Beethoven, Callas, Furtwängler, Toscanini or a known release number such as PASC045.

Windows tip

If you plan to use the collection often, copy it to a large internal or external SSD and scan that copy. It will usually be faster and more reliable than always playing directly from the USB stick.

7. Mac setup

The USB drive should appear in Finder like an ordinary external drive. You can play files directly, copy the library to your Mac or another external drive, or use a music server such as Roon.

Use case	Suggested approach
Quick test	Use VLC or another player that supports the format you bought.
Full library listening	Use a dedicated library player such as Roon, Audirvana, Swinsian, Colibri or similar.
Apple Music app	Good for Apple Music streaming and ALAC libraries, but not the easiest route for a large FLAC archive. Use a FLAC-capable player instead.
Hi-fi playback	Connect a USB DAC or use a streamer/server setup. Check output settings in Audio MIDI Setup or your player if using hi-res FLAC.

8. iPhone, iPad and Android setup

Mobile use is possible, but varies more than computer use because phones differ in USB support, power output, app behaviour and storage access.

Device	Practical guidance
USB-C iPhone or iPad	The drive may appear in the Files app or in supported player apps. Very large libraries may be easier after copying selected albums to the device or to another storage location.
Lightning iPhone or iPad	The DMC drive is not intended for direct Lightning use. Adapters, power requirements and app support make this unreliable.
Android USB-C	Use a player that can access USB storage or copy selected albums to internal storage or microSD. FLAC support depends on the app/device; MP3 is the safest portable format.
Phone plus Bluetooth speaker	Convenient for casual listening. Bluetooth is normally not lossless, so use wired/DAC playback if lossless fidelity matters.

Portable reality check

A phone can be a very good remote control or casual player, but a complete 1TB/2TB archive is usually happiest on a computer, SSD, NAS or dedicated server.

9. Streamers, NAS and whole-house audio

For hi-fi systems, the best long-term setup is often to copy the collection to a music server, NAS or always-on computer, then let your streamer or music software index it.

Setup	Strengths	Cautions
Roon	Excellent library browsing, metadata handling, multi-room playback and remote control.	Run Roon Server on a suitable computer, Nucleus or capable server. A weak NAS may struggle. Add the collection as a watched folder.
NAS plus streamer	Good for whole-house systems and avoiding a computer beside the hi-fi.	Check your streamer supports large libraries, FLAC/MP3 and the NAS sharing method. First indexing may take time.
Bluesound/BluOS, Sonos, similar systems	Convenient app-based playback with hi-fi hardware.	NAS permissions, indexing and file-sharing settings can be the tricky part. MP3 is usually more universally compatible than FLAC.
Computer plus DAC	Simple, flexible and often the best sound-per-euro.	Use a quiet computer, good USB cable and suitable player/output settings.

For dealers and installers

If helping a customer, first prove the files play locally on a computer. If they do, the remaining problem is almost always library indexing, network sharing, permissions or the chosen streamer software.

10. Cars, TVs, CD burning and special cases

Car systems

- Many car systems play MP3 from USB, but fewer handle FLAC reliably.
- For car use, copy selected MP3 albums or folders to a smaller USB stick rather than connecting the whole archive.
- If the car sorts oddly, keep filenames with track numbers and test one album first.

TVs and media boxes

- Some TVs can play audio files from USB but may have crude browsing and limited FLAC/tag support.
- A dedicated player, streamer or computer is usually better for a collection this large.

Burning CDs for personal convenience

- 16-bit FLAC can be used as a source for audio CD burning.
- 24-bit FLAC exceeds CD audio specification and must be converted/downsampled by suitable software before burning an audio CD.
- MP3 can be burned to audio CD by many programs, but it remains a lossy source.
- The Covers folder contains artwork that may be useful when making personal-use discs.

11. Recommended equipment paths

These are broad pathways rather than endorsements of a single brand. The best choice depends on how you listen, how comfortable you are with computers and whether you want simple playback or a hi-fi library system.

Listener type	Recommended path	Why
I just want to hear it now	Computer + VLC or similar player.	Fastest route. Good for testing and casual playback.
I want a proper computer library	Copy to SSD + MusicBee/foobar2000/JRiver/Audirvana.	Better browsing, playlists, search and artwork handling.
I want a serious hi-fi system	Copy to server/NAS + Roon or streamer ecosystem + DAC/hi-fi.	Best for large-library browsing, remote control and multi-room playback.
I want portable listening	Use the MP3 collection, or copy selected albums from FLAC to a portable-friendly format.	MP3 is the safest for phones, cars and small devices.
I want maximum safety	Keep the original USB, a local copy and a separate backup.	Archives should not have only one home.

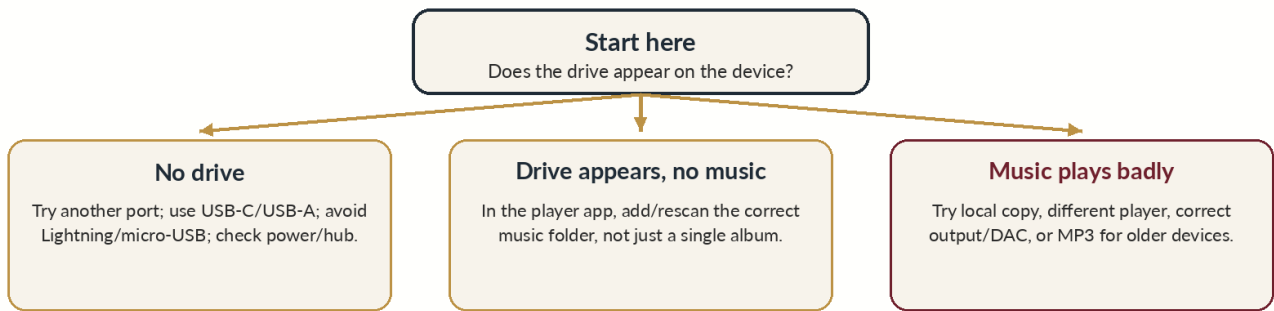
12. Backing up and keeping the collection updated

The collection is DRM-free, so you may copy it for your own personal use and backup. This freedom is one of its strengths, but it also means you should protect it like any valuable archive.

Action	Recommendation
Keep the original	Treat the supplied USB as the master delivery copy. Do not rely on it as your only listening copy.
Make a working copy	Copy the music to a computer, external SSD or NAS for daily use.
Make a backup	Keep at least one additional copy on a separate drive.
Do not redistribute	DRM-free means convenient personal ownership, not permission to share or upload the archive.
Updates	DMC owners can use Pristine subscription update options to keep the collection current as new releases appear.

13. Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting: where is the problem?



When asking for support, tell us:

device, operating system, player app, MP3 or FLAC, and whether files are on USB or copied.

A screenshot of the player library or folder view often solves the riddle faster than twenty emails.

Most problems happen at one of three points: device connection, player scanning or playback compatibility.

Symptom	Likely cause	What to try
The drive does not appear	Port, adapter, power or unsupported connector.	Try the other USB end, another port, a powered hub, or a computer. Avoid Lightning and micro-USB.
The player sees files but not albums	The player has not built its library yet.	Use Add folder/Library/Rescan and wait for completion.
Albums appear in wrong order	Player is sorting by filename or tag unexpectedly.	Use album view and track-number sorting. Try another player if necessary.
FLAC will not play	Device/app lacks FLAC support.	Try VLC/foobar2000/Roon/Audirvana or use MP3 for that device.
No artwork appears	Player is not reading embedded or folder artwork.	Rescan, enable artwork display, or try another player.
Scanning takes ages	Large library, slow drive, network share or online-only cloud files.	Copy to local SSD and scan from there. Leave the player open until indexing finishes.
Streamer cannot access NAS	Network sharing permissions or SMB path issue.	Test local playback first. Then check NAS username/password, folder permissions and sharing protocol.
Phone disconnects the drive	Power draw or app limitations.	Use a powered hub, copy selected albums, or use computer/server playback instead.

14. Glossary

Term	Meaning
DRM-free	Files are not locked to a particular app, device or account.
FLAC	Free Lossless Audio Codec. A compressed audio format that preserves the original audio data.
MP3	A widely compatible compressed audio format. The DMC MP3 collection uses high-quality 320kbps files.
Tag / metadata	Text stored inside an audio file: title, album, composer, artist, track number, artwork and more.
Library scan / indexing	The process by which a player reads tags and builds its searchable catalogue.
NAS	Network Attached Storage: a storage box on your home network.
DAC	Digital-to-Analogue Converter: hardware that converts digital audio into an analogue signal for headphones or hi-fi.
Streamer	A network music player that sends music to a hi-fi system.
Watched folder	A folder monitored by a music player/server so new or changed music is automatically scanned.

15. Support checklist

If you need help, the fastest route is to send precise details. The more we know about the equipment and software, the less time everyone spends chasing invisible hedgehogs.

- Which collection do you have: MP3, FLAC, or combined FLAC & MP3?
- What device are you using: Windows PC, Mac, Android phone/tablet, iPhone/iPad, streamer, NAS or car system?
- What player app/software are you using?
- Are you playing directly from the USB drive or from a copy?
- If copied, where is the library stored: internal drive, external SSD, NAS, cloud-synced folder?
- Can the files play locally in a simple player such as VLC?
- What exactly goes wrong: drive not visible, files visible but not indexed, no sound, wrong order, no artwork, dropouts?
- Please include screenshots of the folder view and player/library view if possible.

Final thought

The collection is enormous, but the idea is simple: choose a capable player, let it scan the tags, then use the player as your catalogue. Once indexed properly, the collection becomes less like a hard drive and more like a private Pristine library shelf that happens to fit in your hand.