

PART 1

Overview

dBpoweramp Ripping

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Note: This Overview, as written, relates specifically to Windows PCs, Blusound music player (BluOS), and the dBpoweramp (dbpa) ripping software.

Tags and Tag-Groups

There are a lot of "moving parts" to dbpa and to networked music systems in general. Consequently, it is important to understand the definitions of the various parts and how they relate to one another, i.e. the architecture and functioning of the system.

Central to the operation of dbpa (and network music systems in general) is the concept of "tags." Tags are *specific* properties of both a CD and the music it contains. A second important concept is that of "tag-group." A tag and a tag-group are distinctly different but related. The relationship between them may be subtle but the difference is important, and it is easily confused in casual conversation, leading to misunderstanding.

Apparently, there is no clearly established standard terminology in the industry for what I have dubbed "tag-group." The result is that the term "tag" is often used in

referring to both tag and tag-group. This casual use can result in considerable misunderstanding, particularly for individuals new to network music, or to ripping.

Therefore, the specific term, "tag-group," is coined to allow for unambiguous distinction.

Tag-groups are *general* "properties" of *all* CD music; they comprise a defined set of seven music CD properties, which are: composer, artist, album, genre, album artist, year, disc.

Tags are the *specific* properties of a *given* piece of music or CD; however, every tag is a member of a particular "tag-group". Here is a list of the seven tag-groups used in dbpa, and some examples of their relevant tags.

<u>Tag-Groups</u>	<u>Examples of Tags Belonging to these Tag-Groups</u>
Composers	Mozart, Richard Rogers, (and many more).
Artists	Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, (and many more)
Albums	Rigoletto, Carmen, The Best of Broadway, (and many more)
Album artists	Andrew Sisters, "various artists," (and many more)
Genre	Jazz, Opera, Symphony, Country, Dance, Folk, (and many more)
Disc number	1 of 1, 1 of 2, 2 of 2, (and more) (or 1/1, 1/2, 2/2, etc.)
Year	2006, 1959, 2015 (and many more)

The left-hand column contains the tag-groups (*not* tags). The right-hand column shows some of the relevant tags that are members of those tag-groups. (The list of tags pertaining to any tag group is open-ended; it is essentially endless.)

Three Examples:

"Composers" is a tag-group, while Mozart (a specific composer) is a tag.

"Genre" is a tag-group, while "opera" (a *specific* genre) is a tag.

"Disc number" is a tag-group, while "1/2" (a *specific* disc) is a tag.

In summary: "tag-group" is a group name; "tags" are members of such groups.

A tag is a property of a given CD along with its music. Because a given music CD has many different properties (composer, artist, disk no. etc.), it has many different

tags, each of which is a member of a different tag-group. Taken together, the tags of a CD identify that CD uniquely.

Tag-groups are not established by the user; they are universal and common to all CD music, and constitute a fixed-set that is determined by the ripping software and they cannot be changed. Tag-groups are like the names of fixed "boxes" or "cubbyholes" in the software into which tags are placed from each CD as it is ripped.

Tags, on the other hand, are specified entirely by the user. Ripping software will usually offer default suggestions for tags. Some ripping software (like dbpa) allow the user to edit those suggestions or ignore them entirely and create his own tags.

Dbpa has an option, when ripping, to check a "compilation" box which inserts the words "various artists" as the album artist tag when that applies.

Summary of Tags and Tag-Groups

Every tag is a member of a tag-group; every tag-group has its own set of members (tags). There is a small and limited set of tag-groups, but an unlimited number of tags in each tag-group. The two tables below show the relationships between the seven tag-groups and examples of their member tags. Every tag is an inhabitant of a tag-group.

Table 1

Tag-groups >>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Artist</u>	<u>Genre</u>
Tag (examples)	Mozart Beethoven (many more)	Elvis Presley N.Y. Symph. Orch. (many more)	Opera Jazz (many more)

Table 2

Tag-groups >>	<u>Album</u>	<u>Album Artist</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Disc No.</u>
Tags (examples)	War Tunes 60's Music (many more)	Andrew Sisters (Various Artists) (many more)	2006 1964 (many more)	1/1 1/2 (more)

Recap

Tag-groups are *general*; they are a fixed set of seven elements common to all music CD's; they are built into the ripping software and cannot be changed.

Tags are *specific* properties of a *given* piece of music or CD; they define it uniquely. Tags are under the complete control of the user and can be changed to anything he wishes.

Note: The genre tag-group differs from the other tag-groups (composer, artist, etc.) because, general tag-groups are wide open to subjective naming by the user; the other tag-groups, while also editable, are more constrained by the properties of the music itself.

Online Tag Suggestions

At the outset, it is a good idea for a user to establish for himself a defined (standardized) set of genres that he wishes to employ in order to maintain consistency throughout his library.

Before ripping each CD, click on the "tag" icon at top-left of the page, 3-over from the rip icon, in order to open the tag data page. Select the data-set that is closest to what you want (by clicking at its top). This will import it, *en masse*, into the left-hand column. Then manually refine and edit each box as you wish either by typing directly or by clicking on the red tags you wish to use (and the black tags you do not want use). When a data item is selected it will become black and appear in the box at the left. Black signifies data items that will be used; red signifies those that won't. To bring in any red data item, click on it and it will turn black and populate to left-hand column. The left-hand column shows the data that will be used for the rip.

Uses of Tags and Tag-groups

Tags and Tag-groups serve different purposes in settingup and ripping CDs, and in selecting music for listening.

Tag-groups serve two functions:

- 1) Naming String

The Naming string (described below) is made up of tag-groups. That string of tag-groups configures the format (sequence and indentation) of the folder-tree that appears in the PC's File Explorer. Note that the tag-groups determine the folder-tree *format*, but the folder-tree *content* (the words it contains) are *tags* which are members of the respective tag-groups called for by the Naming string).

The file folders as listed in Windows Explorer are generally not used for the purpose of searching for and playing music, but rather they serve to find a disk for some purpose, such as to delete it. The folder-tree is simply the structure of the library as it is held on your PC or NAS. Playing the music is generally accomplished through the music player app. (Note: some players have an option that allows music selection via the folder-tree as well).

2) Filtering of Music Library (I)

The second use for tag-groups is in the music player's *app* for finding and selecting music to listen to. Tag-groups serve as filters that may be chosen for the purpose of narrowing the music library to locate a desired CD.

For example, if the user wants to narrow his music library to show only the music written by a particular composer, he can select a composer tag-group and then from its list of composers (tags) he can select the composer of choice, say Mozart. This action will provide a list of everything his library contains written by Mozart.

Then he can further narrow his search by clicking, for example, on the genre tag-group and select, say, "opera," whereupon the list will narrow further to contain only the Mozart pieces that are operas, and so on.

In addition to the seven standard tag-groups as listed above, dbpa contains several more tag-groups that pop up at the top of the screen when either the "classical" or "opera" tags are chosen. These additional tag-groups are: Work, Movement number, Movement count, Movement name. *[I know nothing about how these tag-groups are used. I don't believe they can be used in the Naming string. There been some suggestion that they are recognized only by iTunes apps.]*

Tags also serve two functions:

1) Populate the File Explorer Folder-Tree

As indicated above, the tags are what populate the folder-tree that is displayed in the File Explorer. For example, if the Naming string (discussed below) has structured the folder-tree as

Genre\Artist\Album\Composer,

then the indented folder-tree in the File Explorer would look like the following examples for two different CDs.

Opera	Pop
Pavarotti, Sutherland	Frank Sinatra
Rigoletto	Best of the Best
Giuseppe Verdi	

Notice that in both cases, the sequence and indentation *structure* is that called for by Naming string (comprised of tag-groups), but the words that show up in the File Explorer folder-tree are the specific *tags* for a particular CD (*not* the tag-group designations).

2) Filtering of Music Library (II)

The second use for tags is in the music player's *app* where they work hand-in-hand with tag-groups to find and select music to listen to. The selection of tags alternate with selection of tag-group to narrow the music library down to the desired CD. See the second and third paragraphs above under *Filtering of Music Library (I)*, above