Melco Intelligent Music Library

Melco Intelligent Music Library offers easy but powerful searching and browsing of your music collection by integrating the MinimServer UPnP Server with the SongKong Metadata management engine.

SongKong will scan your library, evaluate the existing metadata, and then add additional metadata tags from multiple databases, while ensuring that all metadata is consistent throughout the collection.

MinimServer presents the extended metadata to the Player Control App giving the ability to Browse and Search in any order, by any Tags, with specific Browse trees for Rock, Jazz or Classical music.

Both SongKong and MinimServer can be installed onto your EX series Melco.

SongKong for Melco Lite

SongKong for Melco is an intelligent music tagger designed to make the task of managing, organising and cleaning up your digital music library easy.

As your digital music collection grows, so can missing artist and performer information and album art. Different sources of metadata give rise to inconsistent metadata, and key information may also be missing or incorrect including album art.

SongKong searches multiple databases to build much deeper metadata populating all possible tags, and advanced algorithms ensure consistency across the complete library.

This is all achieved with just a few clicks using the default settings, but there is a range of tools to allow you to personalise your experience.

SongKong is provided and supported by JThink.

Full details of features and settings, tutorials on metadata management and the upgrade path from SongKong Melco Lite to fully featured SongKong with advanced functionality can be found at www.jthink.net/songkong

SongKong
Installing SongKong

Your Melco does not ship with SongKong installed so that you can start with the latest version. Installation is very simple:-

      1   Ensure that your Melco is connected to the Internet OK and is powered ON.

      (You can check in STATUS -- LAN -- WEB SERVICE AVAILABILITY)

      2 -   Navigate to   **Settings -- Music Database – SongKong – Install SongKong** and press **ENTER** button

      SongKong will auto install – you will see the progress bar and message when finished.

      3 -   Navigate to   **Settings -- Music Database -- SongKong -- SongKong Service** and check **ON**

The version of SongKong that is installed in Melco EX series by default is SongKong Melco Lite.

This can be updated at any time by visiting http://www.jthink.net/songkongformelco/buy.jsp and then clicking the license tab on the Web page at aaa.bbb.ccc.ddd:4567 (where aaa.bbb.ccc.ddd is the IP address of the Melco) and entering the license details the JThink sends you by email.

Updating SongKong

SongKong is updated independently of the Melco Firmware.

New SongKong features and bug fixes will be applied as necessary – to check if an update is available and to install it…

      1   Navigate to   **Settings -- Music Database -- SongKong -- Version Check**

      You will see the version of SongKong installed, and by clicking the **ENTER** key the Melco will check for update and apply if available.

Using SongKong

This is a quick guide – full details can be found at www.jthink.net/songkong

SongKong can be controlled to perform metadata management and directed to the location of the music within the library that is to be processed. This is managed by a rich user interface on a network connected Tablet or PC / Mac connected to the web server at http:aaa.bbb.ccc.ddd:4567 (where aaa.bbb.ccc.ddd is the IP address of the Melco)

The location of the web server is confirmed by navigating to

      Settings -- Music Database -- SongKong -- Configure SongKong
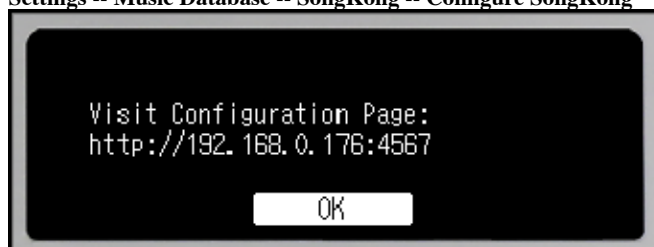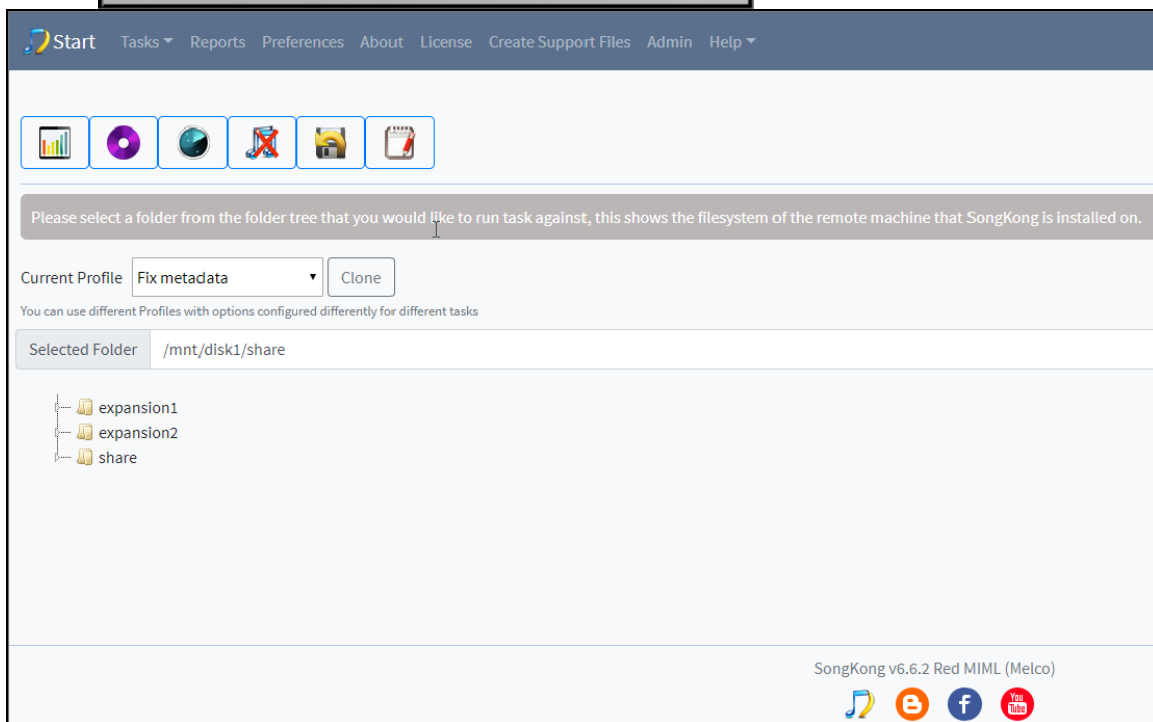
The top of the interface has the main control buttons.

Help text accompanies all functions and when hovering over a button the functionality is described.
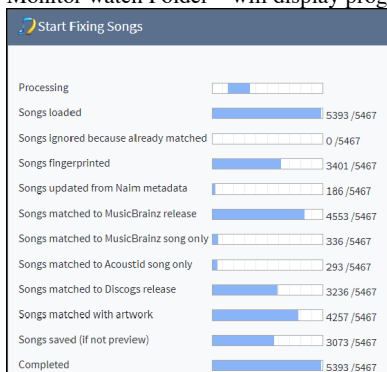

– The function is – left to right –

Status Report – will create a web page and spreadsheet of the existing metadata before any processing is initiated

Fix Songs – One click on this button will direct SongKong to process the highlighted music folder in accordance with the Current Profile.

Monitor watch Folder – will display progress in the SongKong tasks

Delete Duplicate Songs – will remove duplicates of the same song from the library. There is the option to delete the duplicate or simply move it to a duplicates Folder and hide it from the UPnP Server.

Undo Fixes – Restores the metadata to the situation before SongKong was last used.

Edit Songs Metadata – A very versatile interface allowing for manual edit of a single Album, search new artwork and replace, manually edit Album and track information, and save to the embedded metadata.
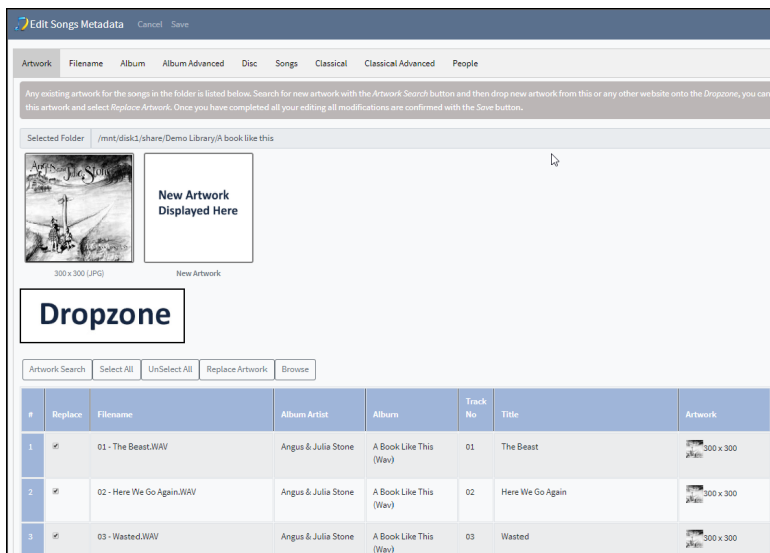
……………………………………………

There are three present Profiles by default. These are

Fix metadata – all albums selected will have fresh metadata from new lookups

……………………………………………

There are three present Profiles by default. These are

        Fix metadata – all albums selected will have fresh metadata from new lookups

        Add artwork only – all existing metadata is unchanged but missing artwork is found and added

        Add new metadata only – only new metadata is added, all existing metadata (previous manual edits perhaps) are respected and are unchanged.
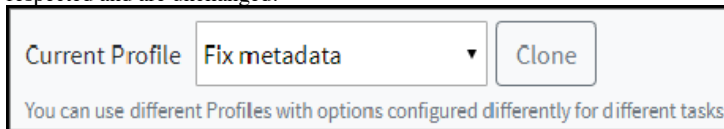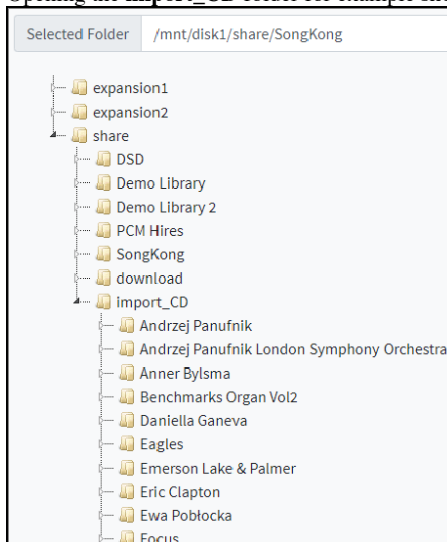

In advanced use new profiles can be created by the user and stored with a new name using the Clone button. (Requires full SongKong for Melco License)

The folder structure includes Expansion drives, and the main library is within 'share'.

The share folder can be expanded as on any computer:
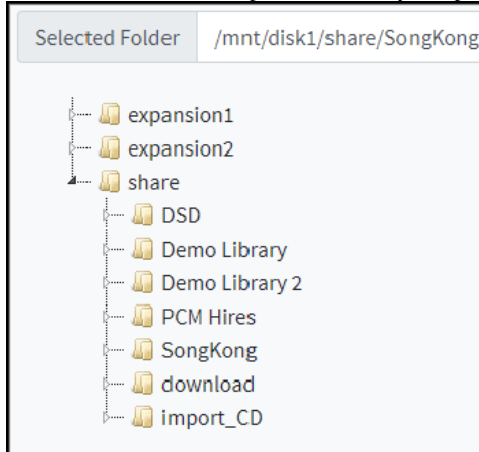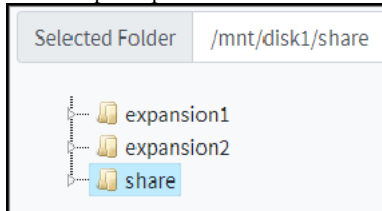

Opening the **import_CD** folder for example shows all CD rips into the Melco
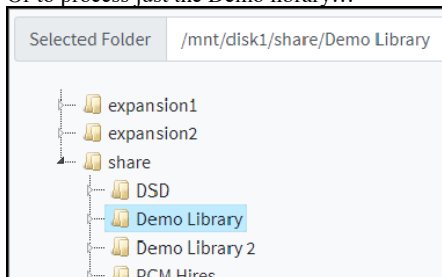

To apply SongKong processing to any part of the library simply highlight the desired folder – everything under that folder will be processed.
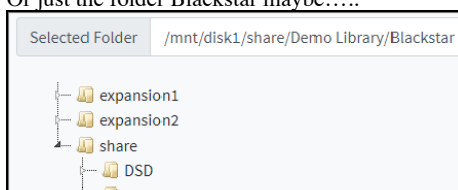
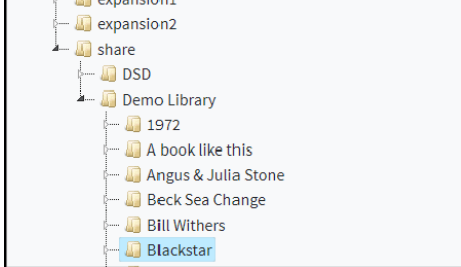For example to process all the music on the Melco simply highlight 'share'…


Or to process just the Demo library…

Or just the folder Blackstar maybe…..

share
    DSD
    Demo Library
        1972
        A book like this
        Angus & Julia Stone
        Beck Sea Change
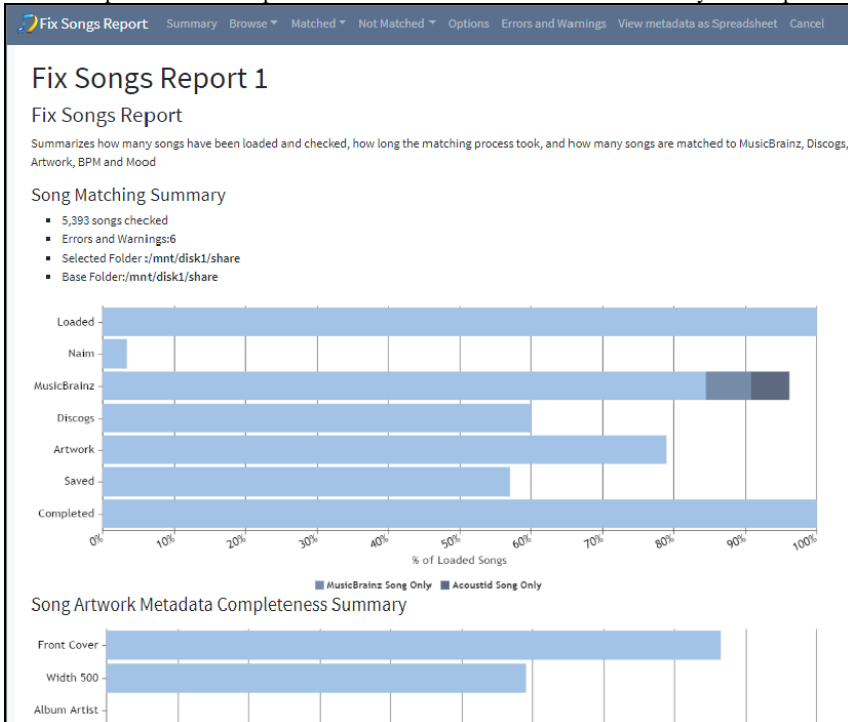   Bill Withers
        Blackstar

Any folder within the 'share' folder or 'expansion' folders can be highlighted – SongKong will process all within that highlighted folder. Choosing for example to highlight 'share' will direct SongKong to process all of the library - whereas highlighting just a single Artist or Album SongKong will just process from that point.

Having selected the folder to be processed, to process with h the selected Profile simply click the Fix songs button
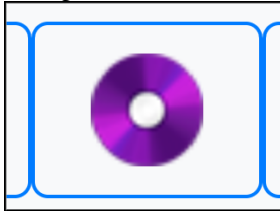
Processing will commence and progress will be displayed on the web interface.

When completed a Status report will show what the new status of the library is after processing

Fix Songs Report   Summary   Browse ▾   Matched ▾   Not Matched ▾   Options   Errors and Warnings   View metadata as Spreadsheet   Cancel

Fix Songs Report 1

Fix Songs Report

Summarizes how many songs have been loaded and checked, how long the matching process took, and how many songs are matched to MusicBrainz, Discogs, Artwork, BPM and Mood

Song Matching Summary

- 5,393 songs checked
- Errors and Warnings:6
- Selected Folder :/mnt/disk1/share
- Base Folder:/mnt/disk1/share

Song Artwork Metadata Completeness Summary

Song Metadata Completeness Summary

To view the status report as a spreadsheet simply click the View Metadata as Spreadsheet button

The spreadsheet shows all data for all tags for the part of the library that has just been processed. This very detailed report is invaluable for understanding exactly how the metadata in the library is constructed, and judgement can be made if processing options might be changed or some data changed manually using the Edit Songs Metadata tool (above).

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MinimServer 2 Starter Edition for Melco EX series

MinimServer is a very powerful audio-specific UPnP Server chosen for integration within Melco on the basis of a unique concept of Browse and Search of any tags in any order, as well as outstanding sound quality.

The UPnP server is the link between the Music Library on the Melco, and the Control App, and determines how easy it will be to find music within the collection.

The requirements to find Jazz music are different to those for Rock, as Jazz features track artists in many cases in addition to artists in the whole album. The requirements for Classical are different again, as there are additional fields required for Composer or Conductor for example.

There are 4 default profiles:-

Melco EX Series Browsing Index Tags	Default	Classical	Rock/Pop	Jazz
Artist	✓			
Date	✓	✓	✓	✓
Genre	✓	✓	✓	✓
All Artists	✓	✓	✓	✓
Composer	✓	✓		
Album Artists		✓	✓	✓
Work		✓		
Orchestra		✓		
Conductor		✓		
Ensemble		✓		
Performer		✓		✓
Choir		✓		
Original Date			✓	✓

Classical Music is also different to Rock, Pop and Jazz in that complete Works – symphonies, concertos etc. - do not generally fit exactly onto a single CD or Album, and so at Album level there may be two or more Works on that Album. Conventional Browse techniques work at Album level, but by selecting Classical profile for MinimServer on the Melco you can easily locate individual Works – at any stage the complete album containing the Work is visible to play in its entirety should you wish.

Installing MinimServer

Your Melco does not ship with MinimServer installed, so that you can simply install the latest version. Twonky Server is installed on every Melco by default, but this will be turned off when you install MinimServer – or you can manually manage the UPnP servers from the Main menu.

To install MinimServer for the first time on your Melco:-

1   Ensure that your Melco is connected to the Internet OK and is powered ON.

(You can check in STATUS -- LAN -- WEB SERVICE AVAILABILITY)

2   Navigate to Settings -- Music database -- Media Server App -- Install MinimServer and press ENTER button

MinimServer will then auto install – you will see the progress bar and message when finished.

This will disable TwonkyServer and initiate MinimServer

(Please note that Direct Play into USB-DAC of Melco from front panel OLED requires selection of TwonkyServer,

This will disable TwonkyServer and initiate MinimServer

(Please note that Direct Play into USB-DAC of Melco from front panel OLED requires selection of TwonkyServer, not MinimServer for technical reasons)

The version of MinimServer that is installed onto Melco by default is MinimServer 2 Starter Edition for Melco EX.

Updating MinimServer

MinimServer is updated independently of the Melco Firmware.

New MinimServer features and bug fixes will be applied as necessary – to check if an update is available and to install it…

1   Navigate to   **Settings -- Music Database -- Version Check**

You will see the version of MinimServer installed, and by clicking the **ENTER** key the Melco will check for updates and apply if available.
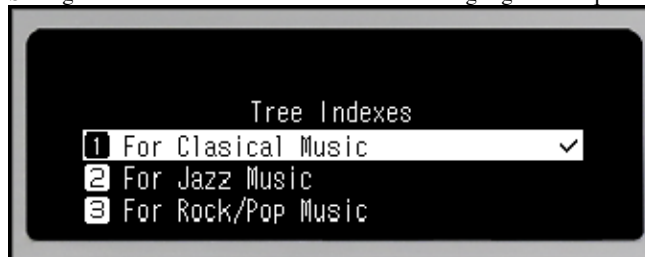
Using MinimServer

MinimServer should scan the internal Melco library to understand the music structure. This is automatic, when MinimServer is first installed and can also be initiated from the Melco front panel after any music has been added or playlists changed.

        Settings -- Music Database -- Rescan songs and Playlists

(If you already are familiar with MinimServer please note that MinimWatch can be used to manage MinimServer running on the Melco)

To select the appropriate Browse Tree Index Profile for Rock, Jazz, Classical or simple default simply navigate to

Settings -- Music Database -- Tree Indexes and highlight the required profile and click ENTER

More profiles can be added, and the tags changed, by upgrading to the full version of MinimServer 2. The possible tags are all shown within the SongKong reports after processing, and any combination of tags can be assigned to any new profile and saved. The new profile name will not appear on the menu of profiles on the Melco front panel. You can view the full list of available profiles from the Profiles tab of the MinimServer configuration web page, and select the required profile.

Selecting a new profile will change the selection of tags on whatever App you are using to control your digital audio player as appropriate. This applies whether a Network Streamer connected to the PLAYER port of the Melco, or DAC connected to the USB-DAC port.

Additional Profiles, or a different selection of tags, can be easily arranged within MinimServer after upgrade to the full version.

Browsing and Searching on the Control App is pretty logical and the detail varies according to the specific App. If the App supports SEARCH then MinimServer allows you to search in any tag field at any stage of the Browse process. And in all cases the Browse process can start with any tag, rather than having to follow the UPnP rules of Browse for Artist first.

Visit the MinimServer website and the very informative MinimServer Forum for more insight and explanation.