

NAME

pw-cat - Play and record media with PipeWire

SYNOPSIS

pw-cat [*options*] [*FILE* | -]
pw-play [*options*] [*FILE* | -]
pw-record [*options*] [*FILE* | -]
pw-midiplay [*options*] [*FILE* | -]
pw-midirecord [*options*] [*FILE* | -]
pw-dsdplay [*options*] [*FILE* | -]

DESCRIPTION

pw-cat is a simple tool for playing back or capturing raw or encoded media files on a PipeWire server. It understands all audio file formats supported by **libsndfile** for PCM capture and playback.

It understands standard MIDI files for playback and recording. This tool will not render MIDI files, it will simply make the MIDI events available to the graph. You need a MIDI renderer such as qsynth, timidity or a hardware MIDI rendered to hear the MIDI.

DSD playback is supported with the DSF file format. This tool will only work with native DSD capable hardware and will produce an error when no such hardware was found.

When the *FILE* is - input and output will be from STDIN and STDOUT respectively.

OPTIONS

-h | --help

Show help.

--version

Show version information.

-v | --verbose

Verbose operation.

-R | --remote=NAME

The name the *remote* instance to connect to. If left unspecified, a connection is made to the default PipeWire instance.

-p | --playback

Playback mode. Read data from the specified file, and play it back. If the tool is called under the name **pw-play** or **pw-midiplay** this is the default.

-r | --record

Recording mode. Capture data and write it to the specified file. If the tool is called under the name **pw-record** or **pw-midirecord** this is the default.

-m | --midi

MIDI mode. *FILE* is a MIDI file. If the tool is called under the name **pw-midiplay** or **pw-midirecord** this is the default. Note that this program will *not* render the MIDI events into audible samples, it will simply provide the MIDI events in the graph. You need a separate MIDI renderer such as qsynth, timidity or a hardware renderer to hear the MIDI.

-d | --dsd

DSD mode. *FILE* is a DSF file. If the tool is called under the name **pw-dsdplay** this is the default. Note that this program will *not* render the DSD audio. You need a DSD capable device to play DSD content or this program will exit with an error.

--media-type=VALUE

Set the media type property (default Audio/Midi depending on mode). The media type is used by the session manager to select a suitable target to link to.

--media-category=VALUE

Set the media category property (default Playback/Capture depending on mode). The media type is used by the session manager to select a suitable target to link to.

--media-role=VALUE

Set the media role property (default Music). The media type is used by the session manager to select a suitable target to link to.

--target=VALUE

Set a node target (default auto). The value can be:

auto

Automatically select (Default)

0 Don't try to link this node

<id>

The `object.serial` or the `node.name` of a target node

--latency=VALUE*[units]*

Set the node latency (default 100ms)

The latency determines the minimum amount of time it takes for a sample to travel from application to device (playback) and from device to application (capture).

The latency determines the size of the buffers that the application will be able to fill. Lower latency means smaller buffers but higher overhead. Higher latency means larger buffers and lower overhead.

Units can be **s** for seconds, **ms** for milliseconds, **us** for microseconds, **ns** for nanoseconds. If no units are given, the latency value is samples with the samplerate of the file.

-P | --properties=VALUE

Set extra stream properties as a JSON object.

-q | --quality=VALUE

Resampler quality. When the samplerate of the source or destination file does not match the samplerate of the server, the data will be resampled. Higher quality uses more CPU. Values between 0 and 15 are allowed, the default quality is 4.

--rate=VALUE

The sample rate, default 48000.

--channels=VALUE

The number of channels, default 2.

--channel-map=VALUE

The channelmap. Possible values include: **mono**, **stereo**, **surround-21**, **quad**, **surround-22**, **surround-40**, **surround-31**, **surround-41**, **surround-50**, **surround-51**, **surround-51r**, **surround-70**, **surround-71** or a comma separated list of channel names: **FL**, **FR**, **FC**, **LFE**, **SL**, **SR**, **FLC**, **FRC**, **RC**, **RL**, **RR**, **TC**, **TFL**, **TFC**, **TFR**, **TRL**, **TRC**, **TRR**, **RLC**, **RRC**, **FLW**, **FRW**, **LFE2**, **FLH**, **FCH**, **FRH**, **TFLC**, **TFRC**, **TSL**, **TSR**, **LLFR**, **RLFE**, **BC**, **BLC**, **BRC**

--format=VALUE

The sample format to use. One of: **u8**, **s8**, **s16** (default), **s24**, **s32**, **f32**, **f64**.

--volume=VALUE

The stream volume, default 1.000. Depending on the locale you have configured, "," or "." may be used as a decimal separator. Check with **locale** command.

AUTHORS

The PipeWire Developers <<https://gitlab.freedesktop.org/pipewire/pipewire/issues>>; PipeWire is available from <https://pipewire.org>

SEE ALSO

PipeWire(1), **pw-mon(1)**,