Use Librespot to play songs

Overview

librespot is an open source client library for Spotify. It enables applications to use Spotify's service to control and play music and to act as a Spotify Connect receiver. Using this terminal-application in combination with a Spotify-controller like Hutspot, you can play songs from Spotify on your SailfishOS-Device without using the Android-app from Spotify itself. The source code is available on GitHub

Installation

Prebuilt package

> **ATTENTION:** Currently (22.1.2026) this package DOES NOT work with 32-Bit devices (e.g. Sony Xperia XA2 series, Xperia 10,...). If you want to use Librespot on these devices, you might try build it yourself (see tutorial below)(no guarantees it will work, not tested by the author of this wiki)

> **NOTE**: This package provides version 0.6.0 which is outdated. The latest version as of 21.7.2026 is 0.8.0 which you can get when building yourself.

There is a prebuilt package which a user uploaded to the forum. You can download it here (just click on `librespot-0.6.0-1.31.1.bso.aarch64.rpm` and it will download) . If you want to change the configuration, you can edit the command in the file `/etc/systemd/user/librespot.service` (see instructions below). This package installs Librespot as a service, so you can start and stop it from Hutspot directly.

Building it yourself

You can also get librespot directly an build it on your device. First, you need to install Rust. To do this, open a terminal and execute

```
curl --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 -sSf https://sh.rustup.rs | sh
```

After the installation has finished, you need to restart your session. This can be done by just typing `bash` and hitting *enter*. You also need to install a few development packages. To install these, type in a terminal

```
devel-su pkcon refresh
devel-su pkcon install gcc git alsa-lib-devel openssl-devel -y
```

Now that you have everything necessary installed, you can get the source code from GitHub

```
git clone https://github.com/librespot-org/librespot
cd librespot/
```

After that, you can now build your application using `cargo`:

```
cargo build --release --features "alsa-backend pulseaudio-backend"
```

Installing Librespot as a service

If you want to control Librespot from Hutspot, you need to install it as a service. If this was not already done with the installation of the prebuilt package, create a file `librespot.service` under `/etc/systemd/user` (you need administrator privileges for that, so use `devel-su` in the Terminal, e. g. `devel-su nano /etc/systemd/user/librespot.service`).

In this file, paste the following:

```
[Unit]
Description=Librespot
After=network.target

[Service]
ExecStartPre=/bin/mkdir -m 0755 -p /home/defaultuser/.cache/librespot
Environment="DEVICE_NAME=Librespot-%H"
Environment="CACHE_ARGS=/home/defaultuser/.cache/librespot"
Environment="VOLUME_ARGS=--enable-volume-normalisation --initial-volume=100"
Environment="BACKEND_ARGS=--backend pulseaudio"
Environment="DEVICE_TYPE_ARGS=--device-type smartphone"
Environment="BINARY_PATH=/home/defaultuser/librespot/target/release/"
ExecStart=/bin/env "PULSE_PROP_media.role=x-maemo" /home/defaultuser/librespot/target/release/librespot --name ${DEVICE_NAME} $BACKEND_ARGS --b 320 --cache $CACHE_ARGS --enable-oauth $VOLUME_ARGS $DEVICE_TYPE_ARGS
```

If you have cloned the Librespot git-Repository to another location, change `/home/defaultuser/librespot/` to the location pointing to your Librespot directory.

> **NOTE**: Newer versions need the `--enable-oath` flag to authenticate properly

Now you can control Librespot with Hutspot (see below). When you use it for the first time, it will open a browser window where you need to login to Spotify. By default, you can start/stop Librespot with Hutspot, or let Hutspot do that for you. You can also let Librespot start at boot. If you want this, change line 3 of the `librespot.service`-file to the following:

```
# for start at boot you might want:
After=user-session.target network.target pulseaudio.service
```

Additionally, add the following to the end of the file:

```
[Install]
WantedBy=post-user-session.target
```

Unfortunately boot will fail probably since there is no network device. To enable those changes, run in the Terminal:

```
systemctl --user enable librespot
```

(To disable again, use `disable` instead of `enable`)

Usage

Controlling Librespot with Hutspot

If you have installed Librespot as a service AND have started Librespot once from the terminal to put in your credentials (see below), you can control Librespot right from the GUI of Hutspot. To do this, tap on the *Hamburger-menu* (four lines) in the bottom right corner of Hutspot and navigate to *Settings*. There, you need to activate "Control Librespot" (Like seen in this screenshot). This will start Librespot with Hutspot and terminate it when Hutspot is closed. On this page, you can also start/stop Librespot manually. This is also possible from the Pull-Down-Menu of the *Devices*-page (Like seen here).

NOTE: you *might* need to add

```
[X-Sailjail]
```

```
Sandboxing=Disabled
```

to `/usr/share/applications/hutspot.desktop` for this to work properly, see here.

> Sometimes, it can take very long (up to 2 minutes) for Librespot to connect to Spotify's servers. You can check the status with `systemctl --user status librespot`

Starting Librespot from the terminal

You can also start Librespot from the terminal, where you can make your configuration directly. If you have built Librespot yourself, you need to execute Librespot from the path where you built it. The executeable is typically stored under `<PATH TO LIBRESPOT SOURCE>/target/release/`. For more overview of which options are possible for Librespot, you can look here.

Generally, you would want the `--username` option, the `--cache` option (so you don't need to type in your password everytime), the `-n` option to give the instance a name and the `--backend` option (which needs to be set to `pulseaudio`). For newer versions of Librespot you also need the `--enable-oauth` flag in order to login. When you use it for the first time, it will open a browser window where you need to login to Spotify.

An example command could look like this:

```
/home/defaultuser/librespot/target/release/librespot --cache /home/defaultuser/.cache/librespot --username <YOUR USERNAME> --enable-oauth -b 320 -n MyAwesomeLibrespotBuild --backend pulseaudio --device-type smartphone
```

NOTICE: If you launch Librespot this way, you won't be able to control its volume via the volume-buttons on your device, you can only control it via the volume-slider in Hutspot. If you want to use the volume-buttons, you need to execute Librespsot in the following way:

```
/bin/env "PULSE_PROP_media.role=x-maemo" <YOUR LIBRESPOT COMMAND LIKE ABOVE>
```

Setting Librespot as the current device

If Librespot is running, you can use it to play songs from Spotify via Hutspot. To do this, open Hutspot and navigate to the *Devices*-page. All connected Spotify devices will show up there (which includes Librespot-instances). To use a device, long press on the device and choose "Set as active device" (first option in the menu). Congratulations, you can now play, pause and skip songs via Hutspot which will be played using your SailfishOS-smartphone.



Known Issues / Workarounds / Working versions

Known issues / Workarounds

- Starting Librespot, especially connecting to Spotify's Servers can sometimes take a very long time (Up to 2 minutes). Sometimes you need to try it a few times until it connects.
- When you use Hutspot to control Librespot and you use it for the first time, after you completed the login flow in the browser, wait patiently for Librespot to appear in the devices list and **DO NOT CLICK ON "REFRESH DEVICES"** as this will trigger the

authentification flow again!! If you want to watch Librespot's status, you can use the terminal with `systemctl --user status librespot`. Librespot is ready when the last line of the status says `active device is <> with session <some string>`

- Librespot sometimes randomly crashes.
  - **WORKAROUND**: Just restart it either via Hutspot or in the terminal with `systemctl --user restart librespot`

Working versions

Working?	Librespot version	SailfishOS-Version	Device tested on	Comments
YES	0.8.0	5.2.0.22	Sony Xperia 10 III	needs `--enable-oauth`, own build
YES	0.8.0	5.2	Jolla Phone 2026	needs `--enable-oauth`, own build
YES	0.8.0	5.1.0.11	Sony Xperia 10 III	needs `--enable-oauth`, own build
NO	0.6.0			own build and pre-built package
YES	0.4.2	5.1.0.11	Sony Xperia 10 III	needs `--username <YOUR USERNAME>`, own build

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