

SO CHECK IT OUT

I know this whole thing can seem daunting, and it CAN BE a lot of work. So tell you what, I used half a year's Spotify subscription to buy a CD drive (from NewEgg, fuck Amazon), and if you have a big CD collection that you want digitized and you live in or near Madison Wisconsin here's my phone number. I will gladly help you copy all of your Cds to a hard drive or something like that so you can get started on your collection, just to help get you started.

I'll do it for free, no foolin.

Love, Shane

608-957-3961

"As we get older, every day feels longer. And although I know I'll struggle I will do my best to NEVER GET TIRED"

*Jeff Rosenstock
BOMB the Music Industry*



Why and How to Quit Spotify



a zine by Shane from Chiron

Deerhoof Statement 06/30/25

We're taking Deerhoof off Spotify.

"Daniel Ek uses \$700 million of his Spotify fortune to become chairman of AI battle tech company" was not a headline we enjoyed reading this week. We don't want our music killing people. We don't want our success being tied to AI battle tech.

We are privileged that it was a pretty easy decision for us. Spotify only pays a pittance anyway, and we earn a lot more from touring. But we also understand that other artists and labels do rely on Spotify for a bigger chunk of their income, and don't judge those who can't make the same move in the short term.

AI battle tech is clearly emerging as the hot new big ticket item for the super-rich. It's increasingly clear that the military and police exist primarily as the security detail for the billionaire class. The more of the killing you can get computers to do, the better your bottom line.

Computerized targeting, computerized extermination, computerized destabilization for profit, successfully tested on the people of Gaza, also finally solves the perennial inconvenience to war-makers — it takes human compassion and morality out of the equation.

Spotify is flushing itself down the toilet. Eventually artists will want to leave this already widely hated data-mining scam masquerading as a "music company." It's creepy for users and crappy for artists. Music-making lasts forever but this or that digital get-rich-quick scheme is sure to become obsolete.

One of the claims often made about Spotify is that it theoretically makes one's music discoverable by anyone who signs up, no matter how remote they may be from the self-proclaimed centers of hipness. But just because someone is far from Western gatekeepers does not mean they lack culture, or need to hear our band. Deerhoof is a small mom and pop operation, and know when enough is enough. We aren't capitalists, and don't wish to take over the world. Especially if the price of "discoverability" is letting oligarchs fill the globe with computerized weaponry, we're going to pass on the supposed benefits.

The big picture is this: Our politico-economic system increasingly presents humanity with a hideous fait accompli: Buy from me, vote for me, consume my media, use my service. Yes, it means mass deportation, mass detainment, and mass extermination of those deemed unprofitable by a handful of rich white people living in enclaves protected by AI weaponry. But if you don't, you cannot have a job. We think this dilemma is coming to a head soon, and we predict that most people aren't going to take the billionaires' side.

We aren't sure exactly how soon the takedowns can happen, but it will be as soon as possible. We want to thank our various labels for their support on this tricky decision. The grunt work of pulling content off of Spotify is something they're now tasked with, and they are sharing the financial hit. We know we are asking them to make a sacrifice, and it means a lot to us.

So I'm gonna promise something right now...

ALL MUSIC AND ART I PUT OUT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET FOR FREE, FOREVER

This means a lot to me. I want to live in a world where everyone can access art made with love and purpose FOR FREE without a fucking HIMs ad or some video peddling online gambling shoved down their throat first.

So I promise I will do everything I can to make that happen. Bands are a group dynamic, so if you ever see any music I worked on not having a free option, it wasn't completely up to me. But know that I fucking argued and made a stink for days.

And guess what

Now that you quit Spotify...

YOU SHOULD TAKE THAT EXTRA MONEY and GO SUPPORT THE BANDS YOU LOVE

Go to shows, donate to tour funds, buy some physical media if they have it and if you can. Its just a beautiful way to say thank you by sharing your time and money that you spent your life to earn. And it's always meaningful to us.

The DAY I kicked spotify, I spent the next few months sub money on Smiling Broadly's albums on BANDCAMP. And her old project Twinkle Park. And I listen to the MP3s I downloaded straight from her on my phone and computer.

Fucking worth it

Some thoughts on Piracy

Ooooh so fucking scary, sharing things, ooooooh!

Access to Education, Art, News, and Community should not be paywalled.

I'd like to say,

“FUCK YOU IF YOU THINK THEY SHOULD!”

...but tbh most people are doing their best just to survive, and not everyone understands that *“Not paywalling the human experience”* and *“Everyone should have their basic needs met”* are the same thought.

All of the things I listed are the result of cumulative effort spanning back to the beginning of humanity. As such they are the property of everyone who has ever lived. Nothing would have existed without the people who came before, as much as the people who are making it today. From the people who made our *favorite music*, to the people who grow our **food**, made our **instruments**, and for our friend groups to help **make us** into who we are.

Nobody has ever done anything by themselves. “Self made” is bullshit capitalist silo-think and I don't want “DiY” to fall into that denial of community, **isolationist bullshit**. We are here together, we need to act like it.

If an artist wants to make a product for sale for personal ownership, that is a separate conversation from the person who wants to find and enjoy new music. Music realistically cannot be owned. Its fucking sound waves. The structures that were made in an attempt to do that are trying to do the impossible.

Physical copies are sick. I would always pay for albums and merch when I could, but I grew up poor as shit, and can count on my fingers the number of times I had money for merch after already PAYING for a ticket. Those times were only as an adult.

I couldn't afford merch or Cds as a kid. And a lot of people still can't. Poverty materially sucks shit, but you also feel guilty and worthless and like something is wrong with you because everyone can listen to the new album, except you.

So Here's the Deal...

It used to be that you would pay for music in the form of physical media or downloads, and you would have something to show for it years later, because you were able to keep the files and CDs you paid for.

The worst you'd have to worry about were record company practices, which could go as far as indentured servitude of artists, but you would have an entire ecosystem of artists contributing to art **AND** you would have something to show for it. Files and/or Physical media.

Spotify charges you and just about everyone else on the planet \$11.99 per month for absolutely **nothing** of material value in return. If your sub runs out, you have nothing to show for it!

The wealth that is generated from Spotify subscriptions, the money that **YOU** spend every month for music streaming, is now going to data harvesting and defense companies, specifically a German defense company known as Helsing.



Picture source: Helsing's fucking website

This is what our \$11.99/mo paid for...

The exact kind of technology being tested in Gaza right now.

How it works →

Artists Get Fucked Over...

A lot of artists feel like they are forced to use Spotify, and really all streaming platforms, because that's **where all the music fans are**. In order to be seen by a wider audience, we falsely believe that a platform will help us.

The platform also encourages the **playlisting ecosystem**. This is where artists will pay to get onto the most popular playlists, and it is just **payola**. The playlists pretend to curate new music for their listeners, but only artists with **money** and clout get added. This means whatever is "popular" is also inflated and distorted.

We need to recognize that the platform's goal is to make money, **not to introduce artists and fans to each-other**. The platform will only promote our music in the event that it deems it worthy to service its larger profit motive. Our art should serve a purpose greater than that.

The music community and the World

Yes it is

Novi

@besonovi on IG, had her music scraped by AI and used to generate music that was then **uploaded and monetized** on Spotify. The AI page that stole her literal voice and uses it without her consent has 262k monthly listeners, while her real music page has less than 2k hits a month.

Spotify allowed the AI music page to upload music using her voice **AND NAME**, and make money off of it, promoting the page in its own curated playlists. This fake profile is still up and making money off of her likeness.

Thousands of dollars in lost revenue and attention that she will never receive.

This case is not isolated. Every single AI 'vocal' you hear is a direct imitation of a real living human being. AI models like SUNO have admitted in court that their training data was stolen from,

"Essentially all music files of reasonable quality that are accessible on the open internet."

SUNO AI rep in court

A few things to make your life easier

Some of the files you download are gonna have janky metadata
(no album name, track number, no album art, that kind of shit)

A free software that fixes this is MP3Tag

mp3tag.de, MAC version is on App Store

It scans your entire music library folders, runs on your computer without needing a service. Doesn't even need to connect to the internet.

For your phone

You will probably need a different, better music player app

For Android I use Poweramp. I paid like 6 bucks on the app store. I have no idea what iPhone has available. I'm sorry. It might be a little more complicated, but then again it might not. Maybe iTunes still works?

If you *REALLY* wanna do some cool shit...

Syncthing

syncthing.net, App Stores

This shit actually rules. It's a software you set up on your phone and your computer that automatically syncs files from a folder on your computer to your phone, or vice versa. So every CD I rip, every album I download, paid or unpaid, all **automatically** syncs to my phone from my computer **WIRELESSLY**. Doesn't go through a fucking server, doesn't even connect to the internet. Just uses your Wi-Fi router as a way to send data from one device to another.

Works like a **fucking charm** (I love this software so much)

Completely free, completely private. Works for any kind of file. I have used it to move around video files from my phone to my desktop to edit. I swear to god it's faster than using a cable. In the time it would take you to hook up your phone to your computer, and dig for the files, it would have already been uploaded. It blows my mind.

The real option...

FILE SHARING

Its what I do

GET SOULSEEK

Slsknet.org

Its a desktop application that accesses a network of JUST music files shared by other users. It works for PC, MAC and LINUX. Its a free file sharing software, doesn't use torrents, directly connected to other users using ports that access files on their hard drives.

They also have chatrooms filled with weirdos and other music geeks are places you can request SPECIFIC songs and albums if they can find them. If its not uploaded there **it can be**.

Anyone can upload files, so you can help expand the network and backlog of music. The files are not hidden in a .zip or a .tor file. What you see listed is what you get.

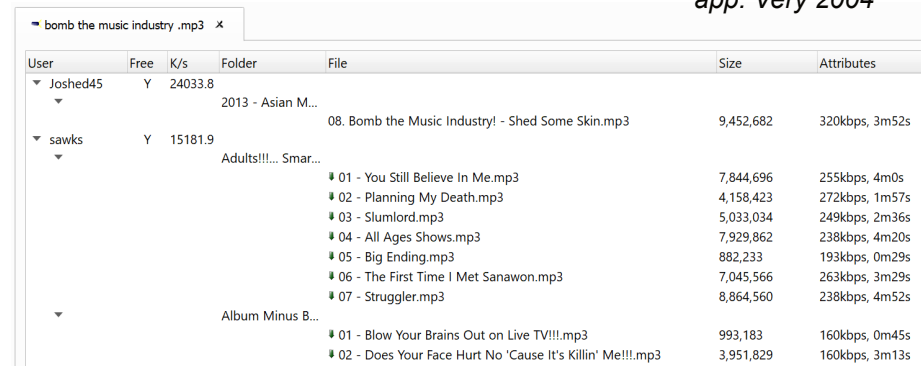
That means no unexpected files, no viruses, no keyloggers, no zipbombs (shoutout .zipbomband), no trackers. Nothing but the .mp3 or .m4a or .flac or .wav music files that you are looking at.

When you search you are looking directly into the folder that the files are in on the other person's machine and see exactly what you're downloading.

The downloads are insanely fast. It used to take 15 mins to DL an album, now you can DL a full discography in seconds without the need for torrenting and seeding.

DIRECT, PEER-TO-PEER downloads with only the software network as a middleman.

This is what it looks like in the app. Very 2004



User	Free	K/s	Folder	File	Size	Attributes
▼ Joshed45	Y	24033.8	2013 - Asian M...	08. Bomb the Music Industry! - Shed Some Skin.mp3	9,452,682	320kbps, 3m52s
▼ sawks	Y	15181.9	Adults!!!... Smar...	01 - You Still Believe In Me.mp3	7,844,696	255kbps, 4m0s
				02 - Planning My Death.mp3	4,158,423	272kbps, 1m57s
				03 - Slumlord.mp3	5,033,034	249kbps, 2m36s
				04 - All Ages Shows.mp3	7,929,862	238kbps, 4m20s
				05 - Big Ending.mp3	882,233	193kbps, 0m29s
				06 - The First Time I Met Sanawon.mp3	7,045,566	263kbps, 3m29s
				07 - Struggler.mp3	8,864,560	238kbps, 4m52s
▼			Album Minus B...	01 - Blow Your Brains Out on Live TV!!!.mp3	993,183	160kbps, 0m45s
				02 - Does Your Face Hurt No 'Cause It's Killin' Me!!!.mp3	3,951,829	160kbps, 3m13s

...Music Fans Get Screwed Too

As an extension of the same problem, music fans feel like their only options are streaming services. We have become **fully adapted** to a world and a mentality where streaming is the most convenient option. We spend years of our time and money just to become financially and emotionally **locked into a platform**.

This means that if we ever want to leave the platform, we will have to contend with losing playlists **that took years to build**, find new methods of following artists, and ultimately completely re-organize our personal music catalogs and consumption habits.

The platform also **does not care** what we want from music. It will and does feed us AI music that is made like Frankenstein's monster out of parts of real artists. **You cannot opt out** of this and there is zero transparency, so AI music hides in plain sight.

at large suffer because of our inaction.
that deep



Harm to the World

- CEO Daniel Ek invested **\$690 Million Dollars** in, via his private investing firm **Prima Materia**, in the **German AI Defense Contractor Helsing**. This was all funded by value generated by subscriptions
- Helsing develops **AI defense software** and military machines, artillery and **drones**. This tech is **made explicitly for**, and will be used for, **ending human life**. If you know anything about war, you know that this will primarily be used against already poor and starving peoples.

This is unacceptable. If you have a soul, you cannot in good conscience and spirit continue funding this.

The Easiest Thing to Do Is...

SWITCH PLATFORMS

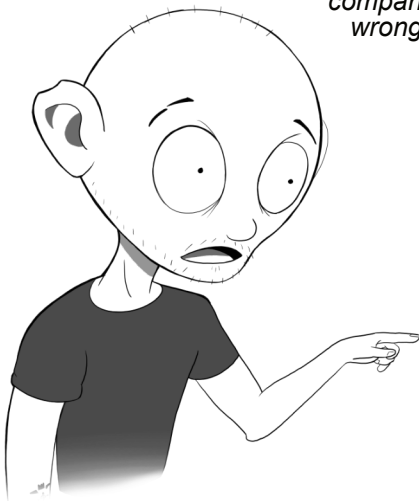
Ooooh fancy, warped text

I have friends who use Youtube Music. I have friends who use Apple Music. **Both pay Artists absolute dogshit** like spotify, with Apple paying ever so slightly more than spotify.

Apple music as a platform is kinda cool. It has a pretty good recommendation algo and their top-charts are usually more accurate than spotify's BS. But its made and run by Apple, who is evil.

Youtube music I know jack shit about. But I do know that its a part of Youtube Premium which means no more ads on Youtube if you sub. But its made and run by Google, who are evil.

If you need me to explain why these companies are evil, you picked up the wrong zine in the first place, dawg...



Reminder:
All of these platforms, and every streaming platform, run on recommendation algorithms that create the payola ecosystem around them and stifle out any and all new artists who don't have immediate meteoric success.

Tidal and Napster are the best options for fairly paying Artists

Tidal pays **\$1** per **80** streams

Napster pays **\$1** per **53** streams

← *Legit the best paying platform*

If you care more about not paying money for AI "music", **Deezer** is currently the pioneer in AI recognition. They also have an option to filter out AI from your feed. They **DO NOT PAY MUSIC ROYALTIES TO AI SUBMISSIONS.**

But...

I don't think streaming music is worth it no matter the platform.

You spend money on it **every month** and have nothing to show for it. If you lose your sub for any reason you lose access to all of the music you've paid for. You don't **own anything** despite having given your money over to the service, where instead you could be buying physical or digital media and have it for life. I paid into Spotify for almost **9 years**, given them approximately **\$1296** and at the end of all of it I am left with nothing.

Its just an extraction of our resources to the rich with **no real value added to our lives**. The convenience is not worth it, and in honesty it takes more from of our lives than it adds.

I believe we should find any alternative possible to streaming media. On the next page I'll show you what I do.