



TigerTag User Guide

Tag your tango tunes.

TigerTag is a desktop app that matches your Argentine tango audio files against a curated discography database and writes accurate metadata — title, artist, orchestra, singer, year, genre, label, composer, and more — back to your files.

This guide walks you through installing TigerTag, tagging your first track, and customising the output to match how you organise your collection.

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Installation

Windows

Two options from the [releases page](#):

- [TigerTagSetup.exe](#) (recommended) — Inno Setup installer. Installs to `Program Files\TigerTag`, offers optional Start Menu and desktop shortcuts, and registers an uninstaller. Requires admin to install system-wide, or choose a per-user install during setup.
- [TigerTag-Windows-x64.zip](#) (portable) — extract anywhere and run `TigerTag.exe`. No install, no registry entries.

macOS

- [TigerTag-macOS.dmg](#) — open the DMG and drag `TigerTag.app` into the `Applications` symlink. The app is codesigned and notarised, so it will launch without Gatekeeper warnings.

First launch & licensing

TigerTag ships with a **50-tag free trial**. The counter only ticks down when you click **APPLY** — browsing, searching, and skipping are unlimited.

On first launch:

1. The app starts in **Trial** mode with all features unlocked.
2. The title bar or a toast will show how many trial tags remain after each **APPLY**.
3. When the trial is exhausted, TigerTag shows an "Enter license key" dialog. Skipping is still allowed, but **APPLY** is blocked until you enter a valid key.

To enter a license key — open the license dialog from the app (it appears automatically on expiry, or you can open it from the settings panel). Keys are 16 alphanumeric characters formatted as `XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX`. Paste it and click **Activate**. Once validated, the key is saved locally and the trial counter stops mattering.

Purchase keys at [tigertag.app](#).

The three-panel workspace

TigerTag's main window is a single tagging workspace, split into three panels:

 TigerTag three-panel layout

Panel	What it does
Browser (left)	Path bar and tree view of your music folders. Select the song to tag.
Current Track / Search Results / Proposed Tag Updates (center)	Prelisten the song, review ranked matches, and preview which tags will change. APPLY, SKIP, and UNDO live at the bottom.
Settings (right)	DOCUMENTATION , the TAGS section (FIELDS , ARTIST FORMAT , FILENAME), a batch progress counter (e.g. 1 / 1), and the NEXT FOLDER button.

You'll move left-to-right repeatedly: pick a song in the **Browser**, review the suggested match in the **center**, and adjust how tags are written in the **Settings** panel whenever you want different output.

Click **DOCUMENTATION** in the Settings panel to open the in-app help overlay — a tabbed quick-reference covering the same material as this guide.

Step 1 — Point TigerTag at your music

Setting your root music folder

At the top of the Browser panel is a **path bar** with a `...` button next to it.

- Click `...` to open a native folder picker and choose your root music folder.
- Or **type a path directly** into the bar and press **Enter**. Press **Escape** to revert if you change your mind before committing.
- Or **drag a folder** from Explorer / Finder onto the TigerTag window.

The root folder and your last-browsed subfolder are remembered between sessions.

Navigating

TigerTag reads and writes tags for: `.mp3`, `.flac`, `.wav`, `.aif`, `.aiff`, `.ogg`, `.m4a`, and `.wma`

- **Click a folder** to expand or collapse it.
- **Up / Down** arrows move between items in the tree.
- **Left / Right** arrows collapse and expand folders.
- The currently selected item is highlighted in orange.

Batch scope

When you select an audio file, TigerTag automatically treats every audio file in that same folder as a **batch**. APPLY and SKIP advance you to the next file in the batch; no separate "Scan folder" action is needed.

Moving to a different folder resets the batch. To jump straight to the next folder, click **NEXT FOLDER** in the right panel or press **Ctrl+Down**.

Drag-and-drop shortcuts

- Drag a **folder** onto the window → becomes your new root (and selects its first audio file).
 - Drag **audio files** onto the window → loads them directly as a batch.
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Step 2 — Review the match

Once a song is selected, the center panel fills in three sections top-to-bottom.

Current Track

- Folder and album lines identify the file at a glance.
- A **waveform prelisten**: click Play, or press **Space**. Click or drag on the waveform to seek.
- A **volume knob** for prelisten playback (remembered between sessions).
- **Title, Artist, and Year** fields preloaded from the file's existing tags. Edit them to refine the search; title and artist are sent to the matcher.
 - Edit a field and press **Enter** to re-run the match.
 - Click the **X** button on the right of the row to reset the search back to the original values.
 - Press **Ctrl+F** from anywhere in the app to focus the search bar.

Search results

A list of match cards, ranked by confidence. Each card shows:

- **% Match** — a similarity score across title, artist, and year.
- Bandleader, singer, year, genre, and label.

Select the right card by clicking, or cycle with **Tab** / **Shift+Tab**.

The matcher runs several strategies in sequence — combining filename segments, folder names as artist hints, title-only lookups, and fuzzy fallbacks — and picks the best result. If nothing looks right, refine the search bar and re-run.

Proposed Tag Updates

Once a match is selected, the comparison table shows each tag that will change:

- **Current** value on the left, **Update** value on the right (updates in orange).
 - Click any value to edit it inline. **Enter** confirms; **Esc** cancels.
 - The reset button on an edited row reverts your manual edit back to the matched value.
 - The **+ / -** toggle (top-right of the section) switches between showing all fields and only fields that will change.
 - If filename renaming is enabled, the proposed new filename appears in the **Current File** row.
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Step 3 — Apply, skip, or undo

Three buttons (and three shortcuts) drive the tagging loop:

Action	Button	Shortcut	Effect
Apply	APPLY	Enter	Writes tags (and optionally renames the file), then auto-advances to the next song in the batch.
Skip	SKIP	Esc	Leaves the file unchanged and auto-advances.
Undo	UNDO	Ctrl+Z	Restores the most recent tag write to its previous state.

Undo history covers the 3 most recent updates. It restores the tags that were there before the apply; if the file was renamed, the original filename is restored as well.

Toast notifications in the top-left confirm each action:

- ✓ green — "Applied: *title*"
- ⚠ orange — "Skipped" or "Tags written but file rename failed"
- ✗ red — "Reverted changes", "Failed to write tags", or "Trial expired"

Configuring tags and formats

The right panel controls *what* TigerTag writes when you click APPLY. Changes are saved automatically.

Tag fields

Toggle which metadata fields are written:

- **Title, Artist, Year, Genre, Composer, Label, Grouping.**
- **Label** is the recording label (e.g. *Odeon, Victor*).
- **Grouping** splits an artist's discography into eras (useful for sorting and playlists).

Only enabled fields are touched. Disabled fields are left as-is on the file.

Artist format

The Artist tag is composed from database fields using a reorderable token list. Click the **ARTIST FORMAT** button to open the builder.

Available tokens:

- **Bandleader** — *Full, Last, or Last, First*
- **Orchestra** — ensemble name when different from the bandleader
- **Singer** — *Full or Last*

Arrange tokens in any order with a separator — for example **Di Sarli - Rufino**. A live preview shows exactly how the formatted artist will look on the currently selected match.

Comment field

The Comment tag can be built from multiple components in a custom order:

- Composer, Lyricist, Orchestra, Date, Lineup, Piano, Label
- **Lineup** gives the instruments in the orchestra (when the database has them).

- **Single Line** writes the comment as one row. Leave it off to get one line per component.
- Reorder components with the up/down arrows; remove with the X.

Filename format

See [Filename renaming](#) below.

Filename renaming

Optional — off by default. When enabled, TigerTag renames the audio file on disk at the same moment it writes tags.

Building a filename template

Click the **FILENAME** button in the Settings panel to open the builder. You can compose the template from:

- **Track** (always included, positioned first)
- **Bandleader** — *Full or Last*
- **Singer** — *Full or Last*
- **Year** or **Date**
- **Genre**

Reorder tokens with the up/down buttons. A live preview shows how the formatted filename will look for the currently selected match.

Behaviour

- **Accented characters are stripped automatically** (é → e, ñ → n) for maximum compatibility with DJ software.
- **Keep Notes**, when enabled, preserves any text inside **[brackets]** from the original filename — useful for tags like **[Remastered]** or **[RCA]** that you've added manually.
- The extension is never changed.

Warning

Renaming a file updates its path. If your DJ software (VirtualDJ, Rekordbox, Serato, etc.) tracks files by absolute path, renaming through TigerTag can break those references. Test on a small folder first, or keep filename renaming off if you rely on path-based references elsewhere.

Keyboard shortcuts

Key	Action
Enter	Apply the selected match
Esc	Skip the current song (or close a dialog)
Ctrl+Z	Undo the last apply
Space	Play / pause prelisten

Key	Action
Tab / Shift+Tab	Cycle through match results
↑ / ↓	Move up / down in the file browser
← / →	Collapse / expand a folder
Ctrl+↓	Jump to the next folder
Ctrl+F	Focus the search bar

Where your files and settings live

Settings and license

Platform	Path
Windows	%LOCALAPPDATA%\TigerTag\
macOS	~/Library/Application Support/TigerTag/

Contents:


- **TigerTag.settings** — your root folder, last-browsed folder, tag/artist/filename format choices, volume
- **trial.dat** — trial tag counter
- **license.dat** — activated license key (if any)

Deleting **TigerTag.settings** resets the app to defaults without affecting your license. Deleting **license.dat** reverts to trial mode.

The metadata database

The tango discography TigerTag matches against is read from a **metadata/** folder shipped next to the executable. It contains one CSV per bandleader. You don't need to edit these — they're updated with each app release.

Troubleshooting

"No matches found" — The file's existing title/artist tags (or filename) may not contain enough information. Edit the search bar manually with what you know about the track, then click the  icon to re-run.

Low-confidence matches — The top match card might be correct even at 60–70%. Use the prelisten to verify, and use the inline edit on the comparison table to fix anything the database got wrong.

"Failed to write tags to file" — Usually a permissions problem (file is read-only, or open in another app). Close any DJ software or audio editor that may be holding the file, check the file's read-only attribute, and try again.

"Tags written but file rename failed" — Tags saved successfully, but the new filename collided with an existing file or hit a path-length limit. Rename manually or pick a shorter filename template.

Prelisten is silent — Check the volume knob and your system's default audio output. `.m4a` and `.wma` prelisten requires Windows (Media Foundation); on macOS those formats are read for tagging but not for playback.

Trial ran out too fast — The counter only decrements on APPLY, not on browsing or skipping. If you think it's miscounted, activating a license immediately lifts the cap.

My DJ software can't find files after renaming — Filename renaming changes the on-disk path. If your DJ library tracked the old path, you'll need to re-import the folder or refresh the library. Consider disabling filename renaming if this is a problem.

Getting help

- **In-app help** — click **DOCUMENTATION** in the Settings panel for a quick reference.
- **Purchase / licensing** — tangotoolkit.com
- **Contact Us** — tangotoolkit@github.com