

Opening Pandora's Jar

Contributed by LiveAverage
Monday, 14 January 2008
Last Updated Tuesday, 15 January 2008

Yes, release all the evil and pandemonium... Release the fury. It'll feel good. You can do it a few different ways, but two of the easiest involve the use of Pandora's Jar (PJ) or PandoraRip, both of which are viable options for reaching out to Pandora Radio's audio casts. Although both are still in beta, I've had success using each. For the average user, I'd have to recommend PandoraRip for its ease of use (located in one compact, non-installable executable file) and wonderful tagging/classifying capabilities. Not only does it fill in the appropriate ID3 fields with the correct information, but this bugger fetches cover/folder art and scrapes Google for genre information, two features that are priceless if you manage your music using a library (iTunes or otherwise).

I had an (almost) equally pleasant experience using Pandora's Jar (a Java-based web application), primarily because of its integrated Pandora Player interface. My only gripe is its failure to tag the album information. It labels the MP3 using the correct artist and song info, but fails to add anything to the album field. I can live without the cover/folder art, but for most music enthusiasts, album information is necessity for organization. Although it had an option to query CDDB for track information, I never could get this feature to work, even after skimming Google. You can [Download Pandora's Jar](#) or [Download PandoraRip](#), but just remember that Pandora's Jar requires several more (software) components than PandoraRip. The linked site has a listing of all prerequisites, but be sure you at least have the latest Java and Firefox. A few Firefox add-ons will also be required to utilize the out-dated Flash 8 that's required for Pandora's Jar.