

Free Legal Resources

Many musicians choose to release their songs under [Creative Commons licenses](#), which give you the legal right to do things like use their music in your videos.

What is Creative Commons?

Creative Commons is a new system, built upon current copyright law, that allows you to legally use “some rights reserved” music, movies, images, and other content — all for free. CC offers free copyright licenses that anyone can use (without a lawyer) to mark their creative work with the freedoms they want it to carry. For instance, a musician would use a Creative Commons license to allow people to legally share her songs online, make copies for friends, or even use them in videos or other compositions.

Can I use any song with a CC license on it?

Almost — you need to make sure that what you want to do with the music is OK under the terms of the particular Creative Commons license it’s under. CC-licensed music isn’t free for all uses, only some — so make sure to check out the terms (you can find these by clicking on each song’s license icon).

Most importantly, you need to use music that is not licensed under a No Derivative Works license. This means that the musician doesn’t want you to change, transform, or make a derivative work using their music. Under CC licenses, synching the music to images amounts to transforming the music, so you can’t legally use a song under a CC No Derivative Works license in your video.

Also, make sure to properly credit the musician and the track, as well as express the CC license the track is under. For example, you might include text like this at the end of your video:

This video features the song _____ by _____ available under a Creative Commons [Attribution-Noncommercial](#) license.

Information found from <https://creativecommons.org/legalmusicforvideos>

Royalty Free, Creative-Commons Video Clips

1. The Internet Archive: <http://www.archive.org/details/movies>

The Internet Archive host's 100s of public domain and out-of-copyright films and clips for you to search, download and use.

2. US National Archives:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guides/catalog-film-sound-video.html>

You can use Google Video search to find works made by the Federal government which are almost all public domain and freely reusable. Use this search to find clips from NASA including lots of old newsreel footage.

3. Flickr.com Creative Commons: <http://www.flickr.com/search/advanced/?>

In the advanced search options you can find creative commons videos and photos. Videos are in flash format, so you'll need a tool like TubeTV (mac) or AnyVideoConverter (PC) to download them.

4. Vimeo Creative Commons Footage: <http://vimeo.com/creativecommons>

Here you can find all videos uploaded to vimeo under different creative commons licenses. Beware of "no-derivative" licenses. Read through what is and isn't allowed under each license.

5. OurMedia.org:

OurMedia is a media resource for people to upload and share their works that is run by the Internet Archive. Seeing as Archive.org is all about Creative Commons licensed works, they have carried that over to this project.

6. Videvo: <https://www.videvo.net/>

Videvo offers completely free stock video footage and motion graphics for use in any project. It boasts a collection of around 6000 clips and more are added every day. But be sure to check all the details of the license before you use the clips.

7. BeachFront B Roll: <http://www.beachfrontbroll.com/>

One of the best places to download unique HD stock video footage and animated backgrounds for any production purpose. All clips in the library are completely free to use and are a simple "right click save" to download.

8. Free Media Resources from Wikimedia:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Free_media_resources/Video

Royalty Free, Creative-Commons Images

1. The Public Domain Project by Pond5: <https://www.pond5.com/free>

Pond5 initiated the Public Domain Project as a way to make historic media files available for your creative projects. With over 60 thousand files in the collection, it is a place worth checking.

2. Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/>

A thriving community with over 200,000 images, more daily views than The New York Times, close to 100 million downloads, and partnerships with industry giants such as Apple.

3. Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/>

Unlike Flickr and 500px, all content is exclusively available under [CC0](#) — meaning they're all part of the public domain. All submissions are screened and approved before being admitted, and there's even an API for all you app developers out there.

4. Libreshot: <https://libreshot.com/>

There are several hundred pictures available, and you can view the most popular images over the last 24 hours, 30 days or from the beginning of the site.

5. Open Images: <https://www.openbeelden.nl/>

Open Images is an open media platform that offers online access to audiovisual archive material to stimulate creative reuse. Open Images also provides an API, making it easy to develop mashups. Access to the material on Open Images is provided under the Creative Commons licensing model.

Nature Shots:

1. US National Park Service B-Roll:

http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/video/index.html

Downloadable, QuickTime H.264 movie clips are available as zipped files that can be decompressed for use in video editing applications, web sites and other projects. All video clips are public domain.

2. National Marine Sanctuary: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/gallery/>

Select video clips and high-resolution still images from America's underwater treasures. Many items in the collection are in the public domain; each item includes Usage Rights.

3. USGS Multimedia Gallery (United States Geological Survey):

<http://gallery.usgs.gov/>

Collection of videos, photographs, and other imagery of natural hazards, climate change, animals, and natural resources. All items in this gallery are considered public domain.

Creative Commons, Royalty Free Music

1. Vimeo Music Store: <https://vimeo.com/creativecommons>

Creative Commons and Royalty Free Search results

2. CCMixer: <http://ccmixter.org/>

Ccmixer is devoted to helping you find music, which is liberally licensed under a [Creative Commons](#) license so you already have permission to use this music in your video, podcast, school project, personal music player, or wherever...

3. Free Music Archive: <https://freemusicarchive.org/>

Free Music Archive provides a library of legal audio downloads.

4. Mobygratis: <http://www.mobygratis.com/>

This site is a resource for independent and non-profit filmmakers, film students, and anyone in need of free music for their independent, non-profit film, video, or short. Moby has made a selection of over 150 tracks from his huge catalog of music available to license for free, via a simple online application system.

5. Jamendo: <https://www.jamendo.com/?language=en>

Jamendo is a site filled with nothing but Creative Commons licensed albums that take advantage of all the various versions of the license. Before using any of them, make sure you understand which version the album is using.

6. Freesound.org: <https://freesound.org/>

There is no music at Freesound.org, just tens of thousands of various sound samples for use in sampling, all of them licensed under the Creative Commons Sampling Plus License.

7. SoundCloud Creative Commons:

<https://soundcloud.com/search?q=creative%20commons>

Sound cloud tracks shared under a Creative Commons license.

8. MusOpen: <https://musopen.org/>

MusOpen is an online repository for music in the public domain. The vast majority of the tracks are classic music with all the famous composers represented.

9. TeknoAXE: <http://teknoaxe.com/Home.php>

TeknoAXE hosts a very large collection of music, with new pieces added every week. All songs are distributed under CC 4.0 license and are free to use everywhere as long as one posts the attribution info.

10. Archive.org: <https://archive.org/>

Archive.org offers up a huge selection of audio, video and text documents under the Creative Commons license.

Information found from <https://www.sitepoint.com/creative-commons-sources/>