Making Everything Easier!™

Spotify® FOR DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Set up Spotify and start listening to your favorite music
- Listen to Spotify on your computer, iPhone®, iPod touch®, or Android™ device
- Use Spotify with iTunes® or Last.fm and even import your music library
- Discover and share new music through Facebook®, Twitter®, and other sites

Kim Gilmour

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Kim Gilmour

Spotify® For Dummies®

Visit www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/spotify to view this book's cheat sheet.

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Cheat Sheet

Spotify® For Dummies®

by Kim Gilmour

Spotify® For Dummies®

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Kim's articles have appeared in the U.K.'s *Web User, PC Pro,* and *Computer Shopper,* among others. She is the author of *Digital Photography for the Older and Wiser* (Wiley) and co-author of *eBay.co.uk for Business All-in-One For Dummies* and *Starting and Running an Online Business For Dummies (U.K. edition).*

Dedication

For Audrey, who loves music.

Author's Acknowledgments

Writing this book from Australia — a country that doesn't even *have* Spotify yet — was far from the lonely task I thought it might be. I've had countless advice from the Spotify community all around the world; and despite the late nights and time differences, it worked! This book would not exist without you all. Thank you so much; I hope our paths cross one day.

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Introduction

There's no denying it: A revolution in how people consume music is well underway, and Spotify's at the center of all the action. Just a decade ago, it was normal for people to wander into a music store and buy an artist's CD after hearing a few catchy tracks on the radio or reading a few good news-paper reviews.

Then, when music sharing over the Internet became mainstream around 2000, millions realized just how easy it was to store digital music on computers. Who needed a CD?

Also around this time, portable music players became popular. You could copy thousands of your digital tracks onto matchbox-sized gadgets. Astonishing! Yet, for all the technical innovation, artists still weren't being compensated fairly for their efforts because most digital music was being swapped on illegal networks. Then, iTunes came along and blew everyone away, introducing a simple click-and-buy mechanism to let people download music legally without guilt and sync tracks seamlessly to their iPods.

And now? Prepare to get ready for an even bigger change. Music no longer takes up storage space on your computer or even your portable music devices. It's floated off into the *cloud* (the term used to describe content or services hosted remotely over the Internet); streaming to you through services such as Spotify.

Spotify is a Swedish company headquartered in London, U.K. It first launched in 2008 as an invite-only service in selected European countries, offering free streaming of millions of tracks in exchange for listening to a few advertisements in between. People thought of a track, and Spotify played it straightaway in high-quality audio, as if it were on a CD. Amazing! Eventually,

Spotify opened up registration to everyone in its launch countries.

Spotify has plenty of healthy competition these days — Apple's iCloud and the long-running Napster and Rhapsody, for starters, and younger companies such as MOG, Deezer, We7, Rdio, Simfy, and Grooveshark. I personally like Spotify's reputation for speed and stability. It has a superb, tried-and-tested way of streaming music to your computer, and its fast, fully featured desktop app lets you sync music to a range of mobile devices.

About This Book

I'm glad my publishers recognize Spotify's part in shaping the way people listen to music.

I designed this book so that you can read it from beginning to end if you're a complete newbie and want to understand what Spotify is and how it works before being gently guided through using the software. But if you've already signed up and installed the software, you can easily skip the bits you already know and dive straight into the parts that interest you, such as the wonderful add-ons and Spotify blogs, or the social networking features, all outlined in Part III. Like all *For Dummies* books, everything is cross-referenced, so if you come to a concept you're unfamiliar with, you can flick to the appropriate section or chapter to read up on topics if you need to.

While reading this book, please bear in mind that you may encounter some slight differences in how something looks or acts, when compared to how I describe it. Like the world of digital music, Spotify doesn't keep still (and that's a good thing). While I've been writing this book, Spotify introduced a raft of features, including its own download store (only available in

Europe at the time of writing), iPod syncing, a U.S. launch, and a new subscription structure. At press time, Spotify announced a major tie-in with social networking giant Facebook, a relationship that's still evolving. (I'm also holding out for a dedicated iPad app. Check out www.dummies.com/go/spotify for bonus information about new Spotify features!)

Most of the illustrations featured in this book are based on what a Spotify Premium subscriber sees. A free account looks slightly different and includes banner ads at the bottom and/or the side, along with a timer at the top-right corner that indicates how much listening time you have left that week. However, functionality should still remain largely the same (apart from some Premium-only features such as Spotify Radio and offline syncing). Despite any new (and welcome) changes in Spotify's world, rest assured that its core capabilities won't stray off course. For up-to-date tips and news about new features, you can follow my Twitter account (@spotify4dummies) and get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Conventions Used in This Book

There are certain conventions used in *For Dummies* books when talking about computers, and here are a few of them:

- **Drag and drop, or click and drag:** A way of moving elements around by using your mouse. When you see a description such as "drag the track onto your playlist" or "drag and drop the track to your playlist," you click the name of the track with your mouse, hold down the mouse button, and drag the track to the playlist before lifting the mouse button to release, or *drop,* it.

- **Keyboard shortcuts:** I explain the Windows way of doing things first (because it's most popular), followed by the Mac version, but I always explain which is which. When you see "Ctrl+C," you hold down the Ctrl button while pressing the C button. Mac keyboard users see references to the Command (⌘) key instead.

- **Web addresses, Spotify links, and so on:** I include web addresses and Spotify links in special typeface, such as `www.spotify.com` or `spotify:user:jasminetea`. Twitter usernames are also in this font for easy reference, such as `@spotify4dummies`. (To view this Twitter account, go to `www.twitter.com/spotify4dummies`.)

- **Numbered lists:** When you see a numbered list, you need to follow the steps in order. The bold text explains what the step involves. For a fuller explanation, you can read the non-bold text below the numbered step.

- **Accessing menus:** When I say something like "Go to File⇒New Playlist Folder," I'm referring to clicking the File menu at the top of the display, and then selecting New Playlist Folder from the menu that appears. If I talk about clicking a series of links on a website, I spell out what you need to do.

- **Scrolling, touching, sliding, and flicking on a phone:** In the mobile device chapters, I refer to touch-screen smartphones. Scrolling on a phone (as opposed to using a mouse) involves sliding your finger on a screen to navigate a menu up and down (or side to side). Touching or tapping means selecting an option with the touch of your finger. Sliding is like clicking and dragging with your mouse, but using your finger instead.

- **Pop-up:** In Spotify, you sometimes see a small *pop-up alert* (a yellow bar) at the top of your screen, which I

refer to as such. You also see *pop-up windows* (boxes overlaying the Spotify screen) that appear when certain actions are performed, such as downloading a track. Also, I call the small windows that pop up for you to do a simple task (such as locate a file or confirm a selection) *dialog boxes*.

Foolish Assumptions

You don't need to know anything about Spotify or even digital music to start using this book. I don't assume that you've ever owned a digital music player or even used music-management software such as iTunes, although this experience can help when you import local files. But I do assume that you have some basic computer knowledge and some essential computer equipment:

- **A computer and a broadband Internet connection:** Spotify relies on a broadband connection to work its magic because it streams music from the Internet to your computer, and a dial-up connection would simply be too slow. Spotify is optimized for Windows or Mac setups (and so is this book!), but Spotify can work on other systems, such as Linux. For full details on recommended computer specifications, see Chapter 2.
- **Familiarity with selecting menus and applications:** I assume you have experience with selecting an application in Windows or on a Mac and launching it, and that you know how to complete tasks (such as saving a file) by selecting menu choices from the top of your display.