

ARCHOS 204

MP3 & WMA Digital Music Player / Photo Viewer / USB 2.0 Hard Drive



English user manual

Version 1 - Please visit www.archos.com/manuals to download the latest version for this manual.

An introductory note from ARCHOS

Dear Customer,

Thank you for choosing this Archos™ product. We hope that you will enjoy using it and that it will give you satisfaction for many years to come.

Please do register your product on our website (www.archos.com/register) to ensure that you get access to our help line and to be informed of free software updates for your product.

Wishing you the best Multimedia experience,

The Archos™ Team

All the information contained in this manual was correct at the time of publication. However, as our engineers are always updating and improving our products, your device's software may have a slightly different appearance or modified functionality than presented in this manual.

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1 Ports, Buttons, and Connections



(A) Headphone Jack

(B) USB 2.0 port – To connect your Archos device to a computer, to transfer files and/or charge the battery.

(C) Power jack – to connect an optional AC adapter/charger

(D) Off button (hold 3 seconds) & Stop/Escape*

(E) Navigation Joystick & Play/Enter button (Press down)

(F) On button (hold 3 seconds) & Menu options

(1) ON – ON/OFF indicator light

(2) HDD – Hard drive activity indicator

(3) CHG – Battery charging indicator

* Hardware reset: in the event that your Archos™ 204 freezes operation (due to electrostatic phenomena for example), you can reset the Archos™ 204 by holding down on the STOP/ESC button for 15 seconds.

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2 First Time Usage

2.1 Charging the Battery

Before using your Archos™ 204 for the first time, completely charge the battery.

- The Archos™ 204 is charged through its USB connector. Connect the included USB cable to a running computer and plug the other end into the Archos™ 204 while it is off. This will charge its internal battery. The CHG indicator will also light up to show that its battery is charging.
- The battery is fully charged when the CHG indicator starts blinking.



CHG indicator is on:
The battery is currently being charged.



CHG indicator is blinking:
The battery is fully charged.

- You can purchase an Archos charger/adapter to charge the battery from a wall outlet. The blue CHG indicator lights up to indicate that the external adapter is connected. The battery will charge automatically when it is plugged in.
- After the first initial full charge, you may use the Archos™ 204 while the AC adapter is plugged in.

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2.2 Turning the Archos™ 204 ON and OFF

- Press and hold the ON/Menu button until the screen comes on.
- The Archos™ 204 will automatically shut off after a given amount of time if no buttons are pressed. To conserve battery energy, the backlight will automatically shut off. You can change these parameters in **Setup > Power**.
- Press and hold the Stop/off button until the Archos™ 204 shuts off.

2.3 Changing the Interface language

- English is selected as the default language for your Archos™ 204 user interface. You can choose another language by going to **Setup > Display**.

2.4 Caring for the Archos™ 204

The Archos™ 204 is an electronic product that needs to be treated with care.

- Do not subject it to unnecessary shock or vibration.
- Do not subject it to heat. Keep it ventilated (especially when connected to a computer).
- Keep the Archos™ 204 away from water and excessively humid areas.
- Keep the Archos™ 204 away from high electromagnetic fields.

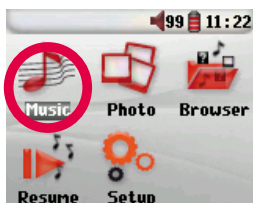
2.5 Foreign Character Sets

You have the possibility to display your file names, folder names, and MP3 ID3 tags in various character sets (ex: Korean, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, etc.). You can find the language files *CodePage_name.4fz* in the font folder under /Data on the Archos™ 204 hard drive or on the Archos website under the heading Software.

If, for example, you would like to have the Japanese language display, you would copy the file *Cp932.4fz* into the folder /system on the Archos™ 204. Shut down and restart the Archos™ 204. File names, folder names, and ID3 tags written using the Microsoft® codepage for the language will now be displayed in that character set. Only one .4fz file can be used at a time, thus you should only put one .4fz file into the /system folder. When an .4fz language file is used, the interface language will be set to English.

3 Playing Music

Once the Archos™ 204 has been turned on, the following screen is displayed. You can select the major functions from this main menu.



- **Music:** Browse through the folder **Music** or use the **ARCLibrary** music selection system.
- **Photo:** Browse through and view all the pictures on your Archos™ 204.
- **Browser:** Browse through and manage all of the other files on your Archos™ 204.
- **Resume:** Resume playing from the last place you stopped.
- **Setup:** Set the parameters of your Archos™ 204 to your personal taste.

3.1 Playing a Music File



By clicking on the Music icon in the main menu screen, you will enter into a 'music only' mode. File types other than WMA, WAV, and MP3 that may be in those folders will be filtered from view.

There are two ways to access your music, by selecting **Browse hard disk** or by searching the songs' tag information, **Artist, Album, title, etc.** In the case of Browse hard drive, you will be sent directly to the **Music** folder of your Archos™ 204. Here you can look at all your music files and the folders on your Archos™ 204's hard drive as if you were browsing files with a computer. The other way is to browse your music by tag information, artist, album, song name, year, or genre. The **Unknown** category indicates

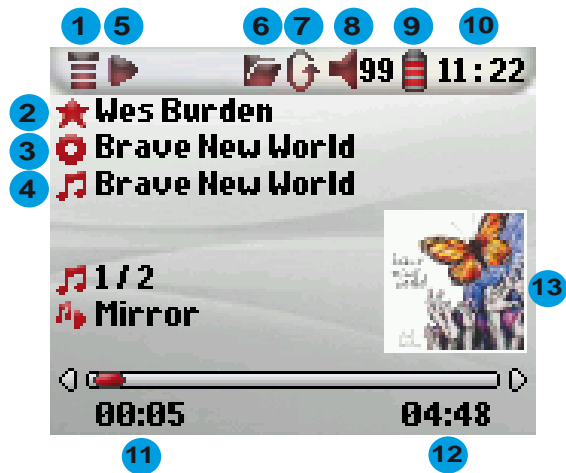
that the file has no tag data.

To select a music file, push the navigation joystick to move upwards or downwards and press it down to enter a highlighted subfolder or tag category. Click ENTER to play the highlighted song. Use LEFT to leave a folder and go back to the previous level.

3.2 Play Screen and Button Control

- (1) Menu available
- (2) Artist* or parent folder
- (3) Album* or current folder
- (4) Song title* or file name
- (5) Status: playing
- (6) Play Mode: Folder
- (7) Play Order: Repeat
- (8) Volume (0-99)
- (9) Battery level
- (10) Real time clock
- (11) Song elapsed time
- (12) Song remaining time
- (13) Album cover (if it is available)

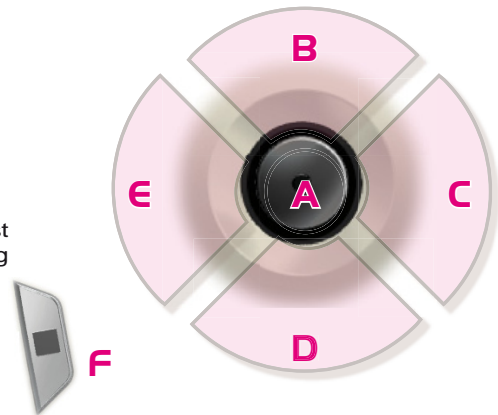
*If the file contains these tag data






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- A Play/pause/resume song
- B Increase the volume
- C **Click once:** Play the next song in the folder or playlist.
Hold: Fast forward through the song.
- D Decrease the Volume
- E **Click once:** Play the previous song in the folder or playlist (during first 10 seconds of song) otherwise go to the beginning of the song.
Hold: Fast reverse through the song.
- F Stop Song



Play Status

-  Stopped
-  Playing a track
-  Current track is paused

Play Order

- (no icon) Play once
-  Shuffle (Random) track selection
-  Repeat playing

The top status bar indicates the status and play settings that you have given. See the Settings chapter for a description of the Playmode options.

3.3 Playback Menu Items

When the menu icon appears, you have certain options. During song playback, press the MENU button for the following options.



- **Setup:** Enters the **Setup** screen (same as selecting the Setup icon in the main menu) which allows you access to parameters such as bass and treble.
- **Info:** Show file information such as the file name, number of kilobytes of hard drive space used, date created, file format, etc.
- **ARCLibrary:** Allows you to browse through your ARCLibrary while listening to the current song.
- **Edit Playlist:** Enters the playlist editor (see below how to use Playlists).
- **Set Bookmark:** Set a bookmark at the current position within the audio file. See the **Bookmark** section below.



3.4 ARCLibrary Specifics



The ARCLibrary is a system for choosing your music by its characteristics. It can be turned On or Off in the settings from **Setup > Playmode**. As shown in this screen capture here, you can select your music by Artist, Album, Song Title, Genre, or Year. MP3 and WMA music files have internal data tags to hold information about the song. For MP3 files, these are known as ID3 tags. Not all MP3 files have all this information filled in. If you purchase a song from a music download service, the song will have this information. If you have an MP3 or WMA file without this tag information, then you can add or change it by going to the properties of the file in Windows® Explorer. The ARCLibrary indexes all the music and playlists that it finds in the folders **Music** and **Playlists** by using the tag information in each song. Thus, you should never delete the folders **Music** or **Playlists**. If a song does not have tags, it will be put into the category **<unknown>**.

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3.5 ARCLibrary Updating

If you paste unprotected audio files from your computer to the Archos™ 204, they go directly to the Archos™ 204 hard drive without the ARCLibrary knowing about the new song. This is why the ARCLibrary is updated when you disconnect your Archos™ 204 from the computer. Alternatively, you can set up the ARCLibrary to update only when you choose to, by setting it to "On", not "automatic". You can find the information on how to do this in the section **Playmode** in the **Settings** chapter. You will then have to go to the **Setup > Playmode** screen, highlight [Update ARCLibrary] and press ENTER. A message screen will appear indicating that it is updating the ARCLibrary contents.

3.6 Setting a Bookmark



If you are listening to a song, or perhaps a long recording, and would like to place a bookmark in it in order to pick up from this point at another time, you can use the Bookmark function. While listening to the audio recording, simply click on the MENU button, then choose **Set Bookmark**. This will set a bookmark in the audio file at the current position. You can only set one bookmark per file. When you look at the file in your browser, it will have a small mark on its icon indicating that this file has a bookmark set within it. You can have a maximum of 16 files bookmarked. Setting more bookmarks will erase existing bookmarks, starting with the oldest. The next time you play the audio file, you will be presented with three options:

Resume: Start playing from the bookmarked position.

Ignore: Keep the bookmark but start playing from the very beginning.

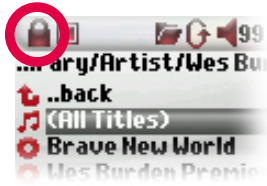
Clear: Clear the bookmark from this file and start playing from the very beginning.

3.7 The Resume Function



When you turn on your Archos™ 204 you will sometimes notice that the icon which is highlighted on the main screen is not the **Browser** but rather the **Resume** icon. This icon is highlighted when the Archos™ 204 can resume the last played audio file.

3.8 Locking the Archos™ 204 Buttons



You can prevent the Archos™ 204 from executing unintended functions by locking the buttons. To lock the buttons, hold down on the MENU button until the “lock” icon appears in the top-left corner of the screen. Now the buttons are disabled, but you can still use the navigation joystick to change the volume. To unlock the buttons hold down again on the Menu button until the “lock” icon disappears.



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4 Putting Music onto your Archos™ 204

The Archos™ 204 is designed to work seamlessly with Windows Media® Player (WMP) versions 9, 10 and 11. The Windows Media® Player software is used to download digital media content from the Internet to your computer and organize it. You will also use it to synchronize (copy) the contents of your Windows Media® Player media library to your Archos™ device. See the comparison chart below for an explanation of the different features available when running Windows Media® Player 9 and 10/11.

4.1 Synchronizing Music from Windows Media® Player (WMP) to the Archos™ 204



The Synchronize button in Windows Media® Player (WMP) is a one way ‘sync’ button. That is, it will add music and photo files to your Archos™ 204 so that you have the same digital media on your Archos™ 204 as you have in your Windows Media® Player media library. Of course, you can choose to sync only certain

songs or photos, or sync your entire library. On WMP10/11, you can click the button Set up Sync in the Sync tab and then check the box labeled Synchronize Device Automatically. This is the auto-sync advantage of WMP10/11. If this box is checked, then each time you connect your Archos™ 204 to your PC, Windows Media® Player will automatically start up and check to see if there is any new music or photos in your media library, and if so, will then copy them to your Archos™ 204. On the other hand, with Windows Media® Player 9, you have to tell it what you want to sync, WMP9 cannot synchronize automatically when you connect your Archos™ 204 to your computer.



Note for WMP10/11 users: Files added to your Archos™ 204 from another computer cannot be added to the Windows Media® Player Library when you connect your Archos™ 204 to the computer. Songs which have been added, will however, be listed in the device's ARCLibrary.

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4.2 Comparison of Windows Media Player 10 and 11 to Windows Media Player 9

Windows® Media Player 10/11 is only available for Windows® XP (service Pack 1) and newer operating systems. It is worth your while to upgrade to Windows® XP (home or professional) and to Windows® Media Player 10/11. The list below shows the advantages.

Functionality	WMP9	WMP10 and 11
Auto-synchronize the WMP library to Archos™ 204 on connecting to PC	no*	yes
Can synchronize subscription music ('to go' services) to your Archos™ 204	no	yes
Carefree USB disconnection (no special green arrow unmount procedure)	no	yes

* Must use WMP9 manual sync function to copy purchased music to the Archos™ 204.

4.3 Transferring your CD collection to the Archos™ 204



The process of transferring music from a CD into files for your Archos™ 204 is known as 'ripping'. It is actually a transcoding process, taking the CDA (CD Audio) format and converting it to WMA or MP3 format which the Archos™ 204 can read. There are many music ripping programs on the market, but the easiest thing to do is to use Windows Media® Player to do it. In fact, when you place a music CD in your computer, Windows® will ask you if you would like to rip it. Depending on the power of your computer, to rip a 60 minute CD, it will take anywhere from 10 minutes to 60 minutes. Once this is done, the album will become part of your music library. Connect your Archos™ 204 to your computer with the supplied USB cable. Now, you go to the **Sync** tab and tell Windows Media® Player to synchronize that album to your Archos™ 204. It will then transfer that album to your Archos™ 204.

Note: Some music CDs have a special copy protection system that will not allow Windows Media® Player to make music files from them.

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4.4 Installing Windows Media® Player (WMP) 9

If you have Windows® ME or 2000, you should use Windows Media® Player 9. The easiest way to install this software is to visit the Microsoft® Website and download the very latest version.

4.5 Installing Windows Media® Player (WMP) 10 or 11

You must be running Windows® XP (Service Pack 1 or higher) in order to install Windows Media® Player 10/11. The easiest way to install this software is to visit the Microsoft® Website and download the very latest version.

5 Playlists

A Playlist is a list of songs that the Archos™ 204 will automatically play one after the other. The Archos™ 204 can handle one Playlist at a time. You can create new Playlists, add or delete songs from a Playlist, or Save a Playlist as a file (file type.m3u) to be used another time. There is no limit to the number of Playlists you can save on the Archos™ 204 hard drive. A Playlist can have a maximum of 1000 songs in it.

5.1 Creating a new Playlist



To create a Playlist, press the RIGHT button while you are in the Music browser. A second panel is opened on the right side to display the Playlist contents (shown empty in the picture). You can now start adding songs to the current Playlist.

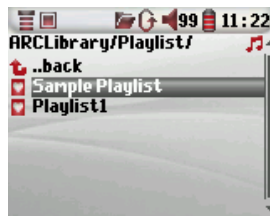
Note: If tracks are displayed in the right panel, this means a Playlist is already open. To create a new Playlist, close the current list first (see the Playlist Menu options) and click RIGHT again.

In the left panel, search for the songs you would like to add to your Playlist. Once the song is highlighted, click on the ENTER button to add it to the Playlist. The song will be added to the Playlist and a small mark is placed next to the music note icon to indicate that it is now in the Playlist. You can also add all the music files of a complete folder in one operation by highlighting the desired folder and choosing **Add to playlist** or **Insert in playlist** on the menu. Be careful about which panel you are in since the left panel menu has different options than the right panel menu. Continue searching and adding songs in this manner until you are satisfied. You can jump back and forth anytime between the two panels by pushing the navigation joystick to the left and right.

We recommend that you save your Playlists to the Archos™ 204 hard drive (see Playlists Menu Options below) to use it again later. After saving a new Playlist, use the menu of the left panel to update the ARCLibrary in order for it to appear in your Playlists folder. The menu also offers you the option **Insert in playlist**: The track will be added before the track which is highlighted in the Playlist.

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5.2 Loading a Playlist



You can load a previously saved Playlist or add the files it contains to the current Playlist. Use the music browser to select the Playlist of your choice (Playlists are indicated by a special list icon) and then press OK. If there were already some items in the Archos™ 204 Playlist, then the songs of the loaded Playlist will be added to the end of it. You can then check or modify the Playlist as usual in the Playlist panel.

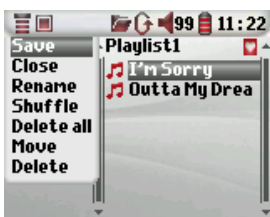
5.3 Playing a Playlist



After loading a Playlist, press the navigation joystick to the right to go into the Playlist edition panel. Then use the navigation joystick to select a song. Click on ENTER, and your Playlist will start playing from that song according to the current PlayMode settings.

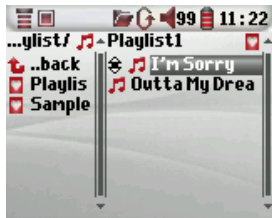


5.4 Playlist Menu Options



While in the Playlist screen (right side) you have the following options.

- **Save:** Saves the current Playlist onto the Archos™ 204 so that it can be reloaded later. It will be saved into the directory **Playlists**.
- **Close:** Closing the list enables you to create a new Playlist by pushing the navigation joystick to the right whilst in the Music folder or any of its sub-folders.
- **Rename:** Changes the name of the current Playlist using the Virtual Keyboard.
- **Shuffle:** Randomly changes the order of the items in the loaded Playlist.
- **Delete all:** Removes ALL tracks from the loaded Playlist.



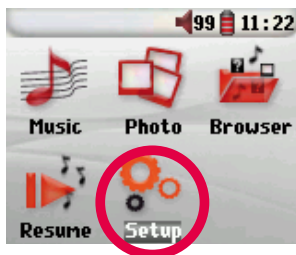
(Moving a music track)

- **Move:** Allows you to change the order of songs in the Playlist by moving them up or down using the navigation joystick.
- **Delete:** Removes the highlighted track from the playlist.

*Note: To delete a Playlist, navigate to **Browser > Playlists**. Highlight the Playlist, the menu button, highlight **Delete** and press **ENTER**.*

Important: Once you save a Playlist it is important that you do not move the actual files as the Playlist searches in the original file location. If you need to move your files to a different folder, you'll have to recreate your Playlists.

6 Settings



There are a number of parameters you can set on the Archos™ 204 to make it operate according to your particular needs. Start by clicking on Setup.

Within the menus, you will find different parameters. In order to modify a parameter, push the navigation joystick to the left or right. Note that once you have reached the last option, clicking further will not normally take you back to the first item in the list.

6.1 Changing the Sound Settings

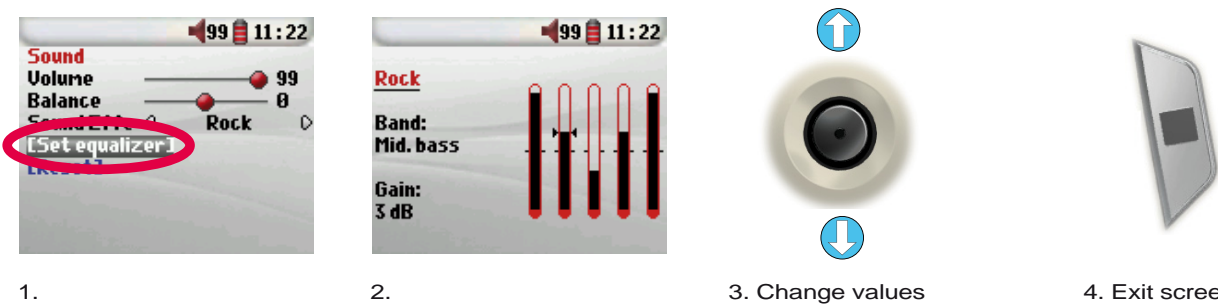
If you would like to customize the sound quality, go to [**Setup > Sound**].



Parameter	Description
Volume	Range: 0 to 99 Controls the current volume.
Balance	Range: -10 to +10 (left to right)
Sound effect	Custom, Flat, Rock, Techno, Jazz, Classic or Live Change this parameter to select an equalizer setting to the style of music you are listening to. Select Custom to set your own equalizer levels.
[Set Equalizer]	To customize the equalizer. See below.
[Reset]	Sets all your sound parameters with default or flat values.

Customizing the equalizer

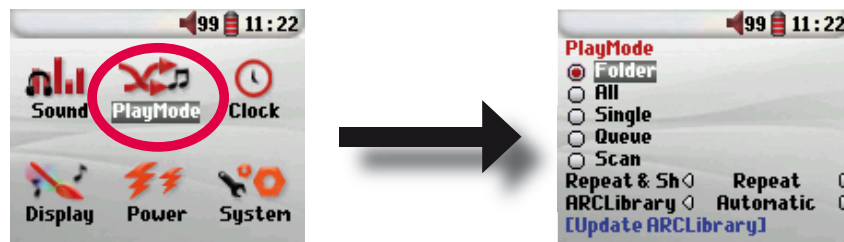
To set the equalizer, highlight the [Set equalizer] line and then click on ENTER. You will now be able to adjust the Archos™ 204's five band equalizer. Use the LEFT/RIGHT buttons to select a specific frequency range (Bass, Medium-Base, Medium, Medium-Treble, Treble) and then use the UP/DOWN buttons to increase or decrease the response for the given frequency range. Modifying these settings changes the sound in real time. Thus it is best to change these values while listening to a song.



1. 2. 3. Change values 4. Exit screen.

6.2 Changing the PlayMode Settings

If you would like the Archos™ 204 to play through an entire folder of songs, play songs at random (shuffle), or any of the other playing options, you can set these parameters in the Playmode settings. Go to **Setup > Playmode**.



Parameter	Description
Folder	Play all tracks in the current directory
All	Play all tracks on the Archos™ 204
Single	Play a single track then stop
Queue	User can queue the next track to be played †
Scan	Archos™ 204 plays first 15 seconds of each track ††
Repeat and shuffle	This parameter allows you to choose the order of play of your songs
(no icon) Normal:	the music sequence is played once
Repeat:	the music sequence is played in a loop
Shuffle:	the music sequence is played randomly

ARCLibrary**Off, On, Automatic (default)**

The ARCLibrary feature enables you to see your music organised by Artist, Album, Title, Genre and Year. Select Off to disable the feature or On to enable it. On Automatic, the library will update itself when disconnected from the computer.

ARCLibrary Update

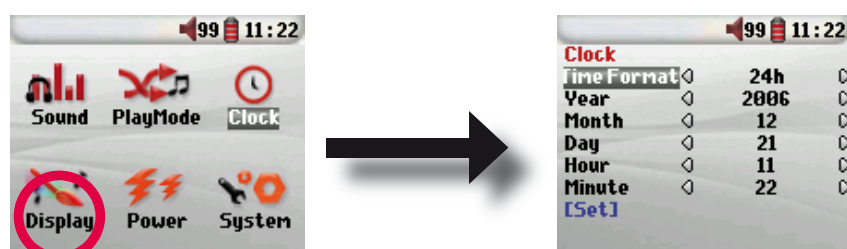
Scans through all music and playlists in the folders **Music** and **Playlists** and indexes these into the ARCLibrary. You need to do this only when you have copied new music to your Archos™ 204.

†Queue Mode: While the current song is playing, simply click on the menu button and select Browser or ARCLibrary (depending on the current folder), find the next song you want to play, then click ENTER. This is your queued song. The lower arrow of the Queue icon will turn black. You can only queue one song at a time. See the Playlist section to prepare multiple songs to play. Once the current track has finished playing, your queued track will be played. If you do not queue another track at this time, the Archos™ 204 will play the next song in the original directory.

††Scan Mode: Each track in the directory is played for 15 seconds. This allows a quick sample of each song. If you want to play the whole song, click on the Play button during those first 15 seconds. The Archos™ 204 will then revert to single directory mode and play the rest of the songs in the directory without scanning.

6.3 Changing the time & date settings

In order to set the time and date or to change the time format, go to **Setup > Clock**.



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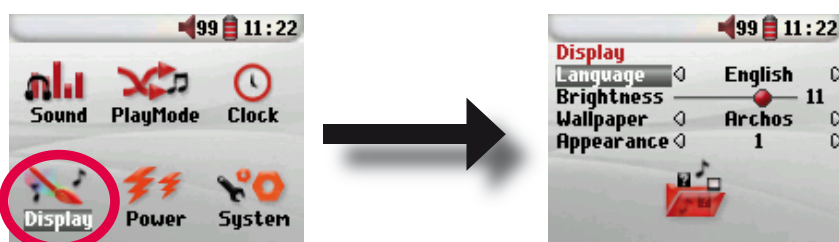
The **Time format** can be set to a 12 hour clock (0:00 to 12:59) or 24 hour clock (0:00 to 23:59).

The Time is expressed in **Hours**, **Minutes** and **Seconds**, although seconds are not displayed. The date is expressed as **Day**, **Month** and **Year**.

Having modified all necessary parameters, be sure to set them. To do this, highlight the [Set] line and then click ENTER. Wait a moment for the Archos™ 204 to save the new values before clicking the STOP/ESCAPE button.

6.4 Changing the Display Settings

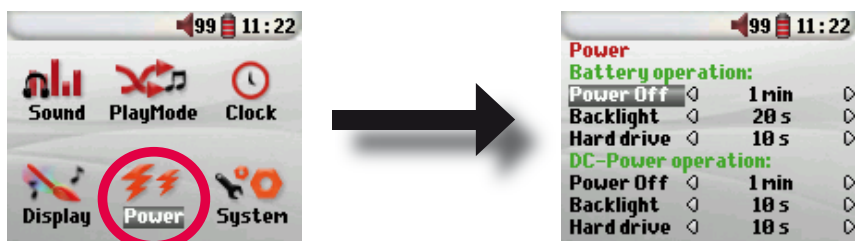
In order to change the operating language, the brightness of the display or the appearance of the Archos™ 204, go to **Setup > Display**.

**Parameter****Description**

Language	Use this option to set the operating language of the Archos™ 204.
Brightness	Adjusts the brightness of the screen. Be aware that a high level of brightness can affect battery life.
Wallpaper	Choose the background image that will appear on your Archos™ 204.
Appearance	Choose the color of your Archos™ 204's icons.

6.5 Changing the Power Settings

To help you get the most battery life out of your Archos™ 204 before having to recharge it, you can adjust the power settings. Go to **Setup > Power**.

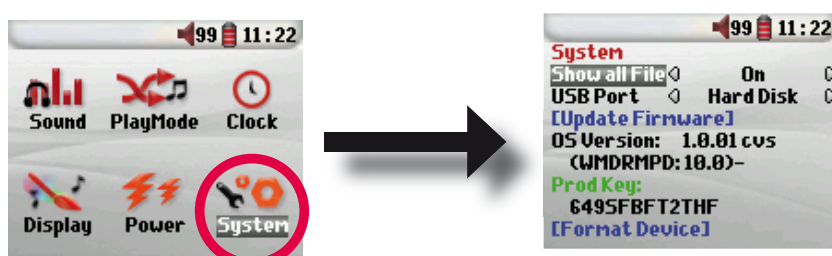




Parameter	Description
Power Off	Range: 1 to 9 minutes or Never. Number of minutes of user inactivity before the Archos™ 204 automatically shuts off. The Archos™ 204 will not shut off during the playback of music files. Never (on DC Power) indicates that the Archos™ 204 will not do an automatic shut down.
Backlight	Backlight shut down time: Off, 10 to 90 seconds, Never. The time of user inactivity (no buttons pressed) before the Archos™ 204 turns off the backlight. Never indicates that the backlight will always stay on. Keeping the backlight on will reduce the battery time.
Hard drive	10-90 seconds. The number of seconds from the time of the last file access before the Archos™ 204 tells the internal hard drive to stop spinning. The longer this time, the more often the hard drive is turning and the quicker the response time when accessing files. However, as it is set longer, it will quickly consume your battery. Caution: This setting should only be changed by experienced users. The default setting is 10s.

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6.6 Changing the System Settings

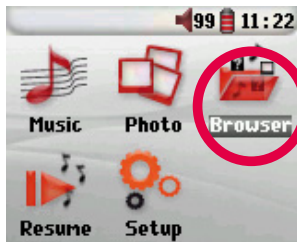
To change the system parameters or get information about the system, go to **Setup > System**.



Parameter	Description
Show all files	If "Off" is selected, files are filtered so that only music files are shown. The "On" setting lets you see other file types as well as music files.
USB Port	Windows Device, Hard Drive.  When set to Windows Device, your Archos™ 204 will use the MTP (Media Transport Protocol) whenever it is connected to a Windows XP (SP1 or higher) operating system with Windows Media® Player 10/11 installed. It will be seen as the Archos™ 204 'Device' in Windows® Explorer. WARNING: This will not work for earlier Windows® operating systems or Macintosh® computers.  When set to Hard Drive, your Archos™ 204 will act as an external hard drive (mass storage device) when connected to a computer. Use this mode for all non-Windows® XP operating systems.
OS Version	Displays the current version of the Operating System (OS).
Prod key	Display the product key of your Archos™ 204 . Every Archos™ 204 has a unique product key number.
Hard Disk	Displays the amount of free and used space on the Archos™ 204's hard drive. Reported number of megabytes is binary based counting (1kb=1024 bytes). Thus each reported MB represents approximately 1.05 megabytes (decimal). Formatting also takes up space.
[Update Firmware]	Used to update the Archos™ 204 to a new version of the Operating System. See the chapter Updating the Archos™ 204 Firmware .

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7 Using the Browser



The browser is used to navigate the file system on the Archos™ 204. The file system is the same type of file system that is found on Windows® based computers. This way, transferring files from your computer to your Archos™ 204 is as easy as 'drag and drop'. The file system is a hierarchical system which includes folders and subfolders. Because you will be putting hundreds of files onto your Archos™ 204, it is **STRONGLY ADVISED** that you keep a neat and orderly file structure. We suggest that you keep the predefined folders: **Data** (to carry miscellaneous data files with you), **Music** (all of your music files), and **Playlists** (to hold all your music Playlists).

7.1 Inside the MUSIC Folder

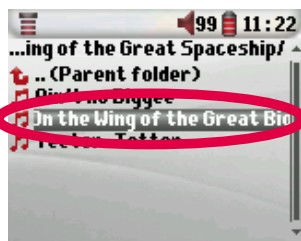
The top level of your Archos™ 204 includes the folder **Music**. Most people who create neat file structures for their Archos players make the following hierarchy within the Music folder.

- Level 1 – **Artist** (Dire Straits, Madonna, Stravinsky, etc.)
- Level 2 – **Album** (Brothers in Arms, American life, etc.)
- Level 3 – **Song** (Money for Nothing, etc.)

The folders **Music** and **Pictures** are special folders in that the **Music** and **Photo** icons on the main screen lead to these folders directly. They should not be deleted or renamed.

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7.2 Navigating the Directory Structure



Just below the top status bar, you can see the directory you are currently viewing. To navigate the directory structure you will use the navigation joystick to move through the files in a directory. Press ENTER to enter a highlighted folder. To go back up one level in the directory structure, you can either use the contextual MENU button (select Parent folder) or move the joystick to the left. The contextual MENU button allows you to create new folders, delete folders, rename a file or folder, or display information about a file.



Button Controls

Button	Action
Up	Highlights the previous file or folder in the current directory
Down	Highlights the next file or folder in the current directory
Right	Open double-browser or gives the focus to the right panel.
Left	Goes to parent directory if single panel view. Gives the focus to the left panel when in double-browser mode.
ENTER	Folder highlighted: enters this folder. File highlighted: Plays the file if it is a music file, displays the picture if it is a JPG file.
Off/Escape	Exit Browser mode.
Menu	Displays the contextual menu.

7.3 File and Folder Operations in Browser Mode

While browsing the directory structure, you will have the option to manipulate files and folders. When you use the Browser mode, you will be browsing through the Archos™ 204's hard drive as if browsing via a computer. In Browser mode, you can create folders, delete files or folders, rename files or folders, and copy or move files from one place to another.

7.3.1 Contextual Menu on a File



Info: Show file information such as song length, number of kilobytes used of hard drive space, date file was created, etc.

Rename: Allows you to change the name of the highlighted file. You cannot change the file extension type for file types that are playable by the Archos™ 204. You will be sent to the virtual keyboard (see the next section) to enter the new file name.

Delete: Delete the file permanently from the Archos™ 204. (Before it is deleted, the Archos™ 204 will ask for confirmation: "Delete file? - Yes/No"). Press ENTER to confirm or STOP/ESCAPE to cancel.

Create Folder: Create a new folder in the current level of the directory. You will be sent to the Virtual Keyboard to enter the new folder name. There is a limit of 1000 files per folder.

7.3.2 Contextual Menu on a Folder

Info: Show file information such as number of kilobytes of hard drive space used, date created, number of files and folders the folder contains etc.

Rename: Allows you to change the name of the highlighted folder. You will be sent to the virtual keyboard (see the next section) to enter the new folder name.

Delete: Delete the file permanently from the Archos™ 204. (Before it is deleted, the Archos™ 204 will ask for confirmation: "Delete folder X? - Yes/No." Press ENTER to confirm or STOP/ESCAPE to cancel.

Create Folder: Create a new folder in the current level of the directory. You will be sent to the Virtual Keyboard to enter the new folder name. There is a limit of 1000 files per folder.



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7.3.3 Contextual Menu while in the Double Browser

By using the unique Archos double browser system, you can copy or move files from one location in the file structure to another (caution: there is a limit of 1000 files per folder). While in the Browser mode, you simply click the RIGHT control and a second browser panel will open. You can jump between the two panels using the LEFT/RIGHT buttons. When the title of the folder is highlighted, this is the active folder. The file highlighted within this active folder will be copied, that is to say, it is the source for the copy. The other panel will be the destination folder. Once you have decided on the destination folder, move to the source browser panel, highlight the file to copy, and then click on the MENU button. You can now choose **Copy** to copy the highlighted file, **Copy All** to copy all the files in that folder to the destination folder, or **Move** to move it to the destination folder. Other options such as **Info**, **Delete**, **Rename** and **Create Folder** are addressed above.



Source

Destination

7.4 Using the Virtual Keyboard

If you want to create folders and rename files or folders, it is recommended to do so from your computer when it is connected to the Archos™ 204. The computer keyboard is easier to use. At times, however, you are not near your computer and you would like to enter the text directly with the Archos™ 204. For this, you will use the Virtual Keyboard. You will be taken to this screen when you rename a file or folder or create a new folder. You will use the LEFT, RIGHT, UP, and DOWN controls to move around the keyboard. Click on ENTER to enter the character that is highlighted. Once your text is entered, select **Enter** on the bottom right.

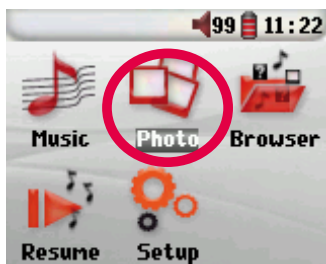


- 1 Contextual Menu
- 2 Text being typed
- 3 Cursor
- 4 Upper/Lower case*
- 5 Delete character*
- 6 Clear entire line*
- 7 Enter*

* These items can also be found in the contextual menu

Tip: use the STOP/ESCAPE button to cancel any changes you made and exit the virtual keyboard.

8 Viewing Photos with your Archos™ 204



With your Archos™ 204, you can view pictures in the JPEG format* on the built-in LCD screen. They will be automatically resized by the Archos™ 204 to fit on its screen.

By clicking on the **Photo** icon in the main menu screen, you will enter into the Photo browser. File types other than JPG that may be in the 'Pictures' folder and its subfolders will not be displayed.

* please note that the progressive JPEG format is not supported.

8.1 Using the Photo Browser



To select a picture for viewing, use the navigation controls UP and DOWN to move upwards or downwards and ENTER to view the highlighted picture or open the highlighted folder.

When the picture is displayed on the screen, you can use the navigation controls LEFT (or UP) to view the previous picture and RIGHT (or DOWN) to view the next picture. Once you reach the first or last picture in the current folder, you will be sent back to the photo browser.

8.2 Photo Browser Contextual Menu



Just like in the browser mode, you can **rename** files and folders and **delete** them if needed, and you can **create folders** to sort your picture files. You simply need to press the MENU button to display the contextual menu. See the instructions given in chapter 7 on using the browser.



Info

Another feature of the photo browser is the possibility to view picture information such as the size of the picture file, the date and time it was created, and the image's resolution. If a photo contains EXIF information, it will also be displayed. You will then see information such as the brand and model of the digital camera that took the digital photograph, the exposure time and aperture, whether the flash was used or not, etc.



Standard Info screen



Info screen with EXIF data

Save as Wallpaper

You also have the possibility to save one of your own pictures as the wallpaper for your Archos™ 204. Simply select **Save as wallpaper** in the contextual menu while viewing a picture or when the picture file is highlighted.

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8.3 Transferring Photos to your Archos™ 204

There are three different ways of transferring photos to your Archos™ 204 from your computer. The most suitable method for you will depend on your Archos™ 204's USB port setting (see section 6.6 of this manual): Hard Drive or Windows Device.

8.3.1 Transferring Photos in Hard Drive Mode

If your Archos™ 204 operates in Hard Drive mode, you can simply copy your pictures onto it:

- connect your Archos™ 204 to your computer (see chapter 10 of this manual).
- on your computer, locate the pictures you want to transfer, select them and copy them (right click > copy).
- open 'My Computer' and double click on the Archos™ 204 hard drive.
- open the **Pictures** folder of your Archos™ 204's hard drive and paste your pictures there (right click > paste). Note that your photos must go in the **Pictures** folder if you want to be able to view them directly on your Archos™ 204.

8.3.2 Transferring Photos in Windows Device Mode

If your Archos™ 204 operates in Windows Device mode, choose one of the following methods.

Copy Photos to the Media/Pictures folder

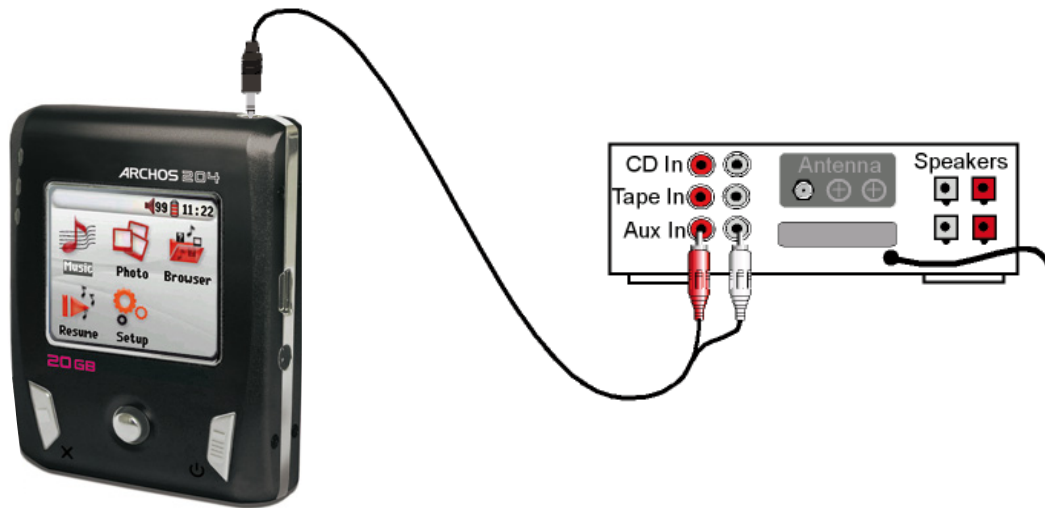
- connect your Archos™ 204 to your computer (see chapter 10 of this manual). If an 'MTP Media Player' window pops up asking what you want to do, select 'take no action' and click on OK.
- on your computer, locate the pictures you want to transfer, select them and copy them (right click > copy).
- open 'My Computer' and double click on the Archos™ 204 device.
- open the **Media** folder, and then the **Pictures** folder of your Archos™ 204 device and paste your pictures there (right click > paste). Note that your photos must go in the **Pictures** folder if you want to be able to view them directly on your Archos™ 204.

Sync with Windows Media® Player 10 or 11

If you use the Windows Media® Player library to manage your photos, you can synchronize your Archos™ 204 device to your computer's library. (see section 4.1 of this manual to learn how to use Windows Media® Player to synchronize your pictures and music automatically).

9 Connecting the Archos™ 204 to a Stereo system

Connecting your Archos™ 204 to a stereo system allows you to listen to your Archos™ 204's music on it without a headset. You will need a standard (mini headphone to RCA) audio cable for this which is not supplied with the Archos™ 204. The diagram below illustrates the setup. Plug the audio cable into the headphone jack and into the auxiliary jacks on your stereo. Note that this is only a schematic representation of a stereo. If in doubt, the manual of your stereo will enable you to identify the auxiliary inputs.



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10 Connecting the Archos™ 204 to/from your Computer

10.1 USB Connection Type ('Hard Drive' or 'Windows Device')

Your device comes configured as a Windows® Device and will be immediately recognized by your computer if you are running Windows® XP (with Service Pack 1 minimum) and Windows Media® Player 10/11. If you have another version of Windows®, not sure what version of Windows® XP you have, or if you are using a Macintosh®, then you will need to change the USB (Universal Serial Bus) Port setting on the Archos™ 204. You will do this by going to System and USB Port and change it to 'Hard Drive'.

10.2 Connecting the Archos™ 204

Connection order: See the sections below for your particular computer's operating system.

- 1) Turn on the Archos™ 204.
- 2) With your computer running, plug the USB cable into your computer.
- 3) Plug in the other end of the USB cable to the Archos™ 204 USB Device port (if your computer asks to install a new driver for the new hardware, then you must unplug it and change the USB Port to Hard Drive.)

Windows® XP

Please verify* that you have Windows® XP and it is updated it to at least, Service Pack 1. You must also have Windows Media® Player 10 or 11 (WMP10/11) installed on your computer. This way, you can take advantage of connecting it as a 'Windows Device'. Connect it to your PC as enumerated above and you can then see the Archos™ 204 in Windows® Explorer and WMP10/11. Without Windows® XP Service Pack 1 (a free update) or Windows Media® 10/11, you cannot use it as a Windows® recognized 'Device' and will have to follow the instructions for Windows® ME & 2000 below.

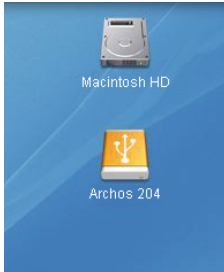
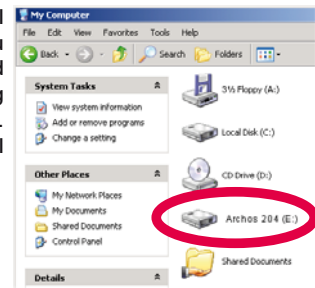
* Right-click on 'My Computer' select 'Properties', and then look in the tab labeled 'General'. It should say "Service Pack 1" or higher.

Windows™ ME and 2000

Attention: Before connecting the Archos™ 204 to your computer with the USB cable, go to **Setup>System>USB Port** and change it to 'Hard Drive'.

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When connected to your computer, the Archos™ 204 will be recognized as an external Hard Drive and display automatically within a few seconds of being connected. You will see a new drive letter, such as E: in My Computer. You can now use the hard drive called Archos™ 204 like any other external hard drive. Simply access it using Windows™ Explorer to drag and drop files to and from the Archos™ 204's hard drive. If the Archos™ 204 is not automatically recognized and displayed as an external hard drive, please refer to the troubleshooting section at the back of this manual.



Macintosh™ OS X

If you have OS X, you must update to version 10.3.9 or newer. You must also change the Archos™ 204's USB Port setting to 'Hard Drive'. From the main menu, go to **Setup>System>USB Port** and change it to 'Hard Drive'.

You will now simply plug the Archos™ 204 into your Macintosh® as enumerated above, and within a few seconds, the Archos™ 204 will be recognized as a mass storage device (Hard Drive) and mount on the desktop. You can now use the hard drive called Archos™ 204 like any other external hard drive.

10.3 Disconnecting the Archos™ 204 from your Computer

Windows Device Mode

If the Archos™ 204 is connected to your computer as a Windows Device, verify that no data is being transferred between your Archos™ 204 and your computer (the HDD light on your Archos™ 204 is not flickering). You can now safely unplug the USB cable from your Archos™ 204 and/or computer.

Hard Drive Mode

If the Archos™ 204 is connected to your computer as a hard drive, **DO NOT SIMPLY PULL OUT THE USB CABLE AT ANY TIME!** WARNING: You must properly remove (unmount) your Archos™ 204 from the computer before disconnecting the USB cable to avoid loss of data or freezing the computer and/or the Archos™ 204.

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Hard Drive Mode & Windows™

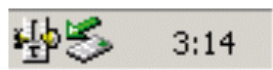
To safely disconnect the Archos™ 204 hard drive, click on the system tray remove icon (green arrow as shown below) and follow the instructions. Wait until you get a message saying that you can safely unplug the device before disconnecting the USB cable.

Attention: The operating system will not allow you to safely disconnect the Archos™ 204 if you have an open file from it in a running application. You will have to close all open Archos™ 204 files in any running application. Sometimes, even when files are closed in an application, you will have to shut down the application. Using the green disconnect arrow in the system tray will then allow you to safely disconnect the Archos™ 204.

1. The safe remove icon is in the system tray near the system clock.



Windows® XP



Windows® 2000 & Windows® ME

2. Click on the icon to Eject (unmount) the Archos™ 204 from your computer and then select the 'Safely remove' message.



3. There will be a message indicating that it is now safe to disconnect the Archos™ 204. You can now go ahead and unplug the USB cable from the Archos™ 204.



Hard Drive Mode & Macintosh™

First, close all programs that are using files from your Archos™ 204. Drag the Archos™ 204 hard drive icon towards the trash can, and the trash can will become a big arrow as shown in the screen image. Drop the hard drive icon onto the arrow. The hard drive icon will disappear from the desktop. You can now safely unplug the USB cable from your Archos™ 204 and/or your computer.



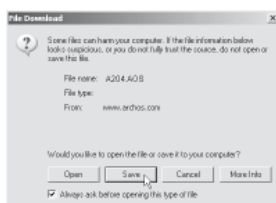
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11 Updating the Archos™ 204 Firmware

Archos periodically updates the firmware or Operating System (OS) and makes it available for free download on the ARCHOS website (www.archos.com). Updates to the Operating System include new features, feature improvements, and bug fixes. You should check to make sure that you are running the most recent version of the OS. To see the current version of the software your device is running, go to **Setup > System** and look at the line **OS Version**. You will find the most recent version of the OS and its version number at the Archos website (www.archos.com) under the category **Software**.

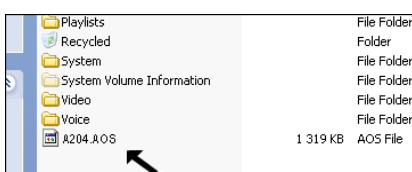
11.1 Download the A204.AOS file



When you click on the link to download the new OS file (the file name is A204.AOS), your browser may warn you that the contents of the download may harm your computer. This is because the Windows® system does not know what an .AOS file is. Be assured that Archos has made every effort to ensure that the file does not contain viruses. Click on the option **Save** to download this file to a convenient place, such as **My Documents**, in order to later copy this file to your Archos™ 204. If your Archos™ 204 is connected to your PC, you can even save it directly to the Archos™ 204.

You will also find next to the firmware download, a text file which details the list of changes from the previous version of the OS.

11.2 Copy to Archos™ 204 root and Update



Connect your Archos™ 204 to your computer (See the chapter on connecting to the computer for help), and then copy the **A204.AOS** file to the root directory of the Archos™ 204. The root directory is the top most level of the directory hierarchy. Just drag this.AOS file onto the Archos™ 204 Hard drive in your file manager and it will place it in the top most directory (outside any folder). If there is already an older version of the A204.AOS file on your Archos™ 204, Windows® will ask if you want to overwrite the current file. Click on Yes. Once this file is copied, safely disconnect Archos™ 204 from the computer. Refer to the disconnection procedure in the connection chapter if you are unsure of how to do this.

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11.3 'Hard Drive' or 'Windows Device'?



Archos 204

If your Archos™ 204 is seen as a hard drive, then you simply need to drag the A204.AOS file onto this icon, and Windows® will place the file into the top most directory (root) of the Archos™ 204. It should not be placed inside any folder within your Archos™ 204. Once this file is copied, safely disconnect (refer to the chapter on Connecting/Disconnecting) the Archos™ 204 from the computer.



Archos 204

If your Archos™ 204 is seen as a Windows® Device, then you will have to open the Archos™ 204 Device in Windows® Explorer and drop the A204.AOS into the Data folder (not the Media folder). If there is already an older version of the A204.AOS file on your Archos™ 204, Windows® will ask if you want to overwrite the current file. Click on Yes. Disconnect the Archos™ 204 from your computer.

11.4 Activate the Update

On your Archos™ 204, go to **Setup > System** and select the **[Update Firmware]** line. Click ENTER. You will be prompted to power the Archos™ 204 by either the USB cable connected to a turned-on computer, or the optional adapter/charger. The Archos™ 204 will now locate the update file and install it. A message will appear asking you to unplug the USB cable (if that is how you powered it) and then click on any button to restart the device. You can go to **Setup > System** to verify the new OS has been installed by looking at the version number there.

Warning!

Never unplug the USB cable or DC-in adapter while the update is in progress. This can cause permanent damage to the unit.

12 Troubleshooting

12.1 USB Connection issues

Problem: I cannot get my Archos™ 204 to be recognized by the computer or it asks for a driver.

Solutions:

- If you are running an operating system other than Windows® XP (Service Pack 1 minimum) with Windows Media® Player 10 or higher, the USB Port setting should be set to 'Hard Drive'. Go to Setup > System > USB Port and set it to 'Hard Drive. Only Windows® XP (Service Pack 1 or higher) with Windows Media® Player 10 or higher will allow for the USB Port 'Windows Device' setting.
- Shut off and reboot the computer and the Archos™ 204 and then try connecting again in the preferred order enumerated in the Chapter **Connecting your Archos™ 204 to your computer**.
- If using a USB hub, try connecting without using the hub (some hubs are not powered and may not work with the Archos™ 204).
- If using a USB port in the front of your computer, try a USB port in the back. Front USB ports are often from non-powered hubs.
- Do not connect to a USB port repeated through a keyboard.
- If using a laptop computer and a docking station, try connecting without the docking station.
- Macintosh® users must update to OS 10.3.9 or higher.
- (Hard Drive mode) If the Files Allocation Table (FAT) gets corrupted, the Archos™ 204 may not show up in Windows XP for over one minute, and then it comes up as local drive. Use DOS Utility ChkDsk as shown below.
- (Hard Drive Mode) Windows® XP may recognize the Archos™ 204 hard drive but yet not assign a drive letter to it. Right click on My Computer and select Manage. Then select Storage, then Disk Management. Within this window you may see the hard drive and be able to assign a drive letter by right-clicking on the hard drive, and selecting the option Change drive letter and paths.

Problem: (Hard Drive Mode) What do I do if I try to disconnect via the green arrow but keep getting "The device 'Generic Volume' cannot be stopped now. Try stopping the device again later."

Solution: Use the green arrow a second time. Sometimes Windows® does not update its status. Shut off any program that might be accessing data on the Archos™ 204, including Windows® Explorer. If this does not work, shut down all programs, wait 20 seconds, then try the green arrow again. If this does not work, you should shut down the computer and disconnect the USB cable once the computer is off.

Problem: I have Windows® XP and a USB 2.0 port, yet my file transfer rates are very slow.

Solution: The original version of XP does not have native support for USB 2.0. You must update your Windows® XP to a minimum of SP1 (Service Pack 1) in order for it to transfer files at the full USB 2.0 port capacity.

Problem: The Archos™ 204 shuts off by itself.

Solution: This is normal. If you are not playing music or using it, it will automatically shut off based on the automatic power-off parameters in the Power submenu. Go to the menu [**Setup > Power**] where you can adjust the **Power off** parameter.

Problem: The Archos™ 204 locks-up. None of the buttons react.

Solution: Did you set the Archos™ 204 to 'lock' mode? This is the mode that blocks the buttons from functioning so that you can put the Archos™ 204 in your pocket or backpack without worrying about buttons getting accidentally pressed. Hold down for three seconds on the Menu button to unlock all the buttons. The other possibility is an electrostatic phenomena. That is, static electricity has temporarily knocked out the Archos™ 204. Hold down on the STOP button for 15 seconds and the Archos™ 204 will shut off. Restart it normally now.

Problem: When I go to the Music icon in the main menu, I cannot see the music files or albums that I just put into the Archos™ 204.

Solution: The Archos™ 204's ARCLibrary must be refreshed. Go to **Setup > Playmode > Update ARCLibrary**. Your newly transferred files will be indexed into the ARCLibrary. Files that are not in the folder **Music** will not be included in the ARCLibrary.

12.2 File issues, corrupted data, formatting, and partitioning.

Problem: I want to clean up my Archos™ 204's hard drive, but Windows® will not let me use the standard hard drive cleaning tools.

Answer: This is because Windows® sees your Archos™ 204 as a Windows Device and not a hard drive (USB Port is set to **Windows Device** in **Setup > System**). **Do not change back to hard drive** and run a defragmenter program. This will give unexpected results.

Problem: On the Archos™ 204, I find new file names and folder names that I never created or they have strange gibberish names.

Answer: (Hard Drive Mode) Most likely, the Archos™ 204's File Allocation Table (FAT) has been corrupted. This could have been due to a shut down while the Archos™ 204 was connected to your computer. To fix a corrupted FAT problem, you should use the Error Checking utility or the Check Disk utility explained at the end of this section. Attention: Windows® and Macintosh® often write extra files to the hard drive such as **finder.def** or **System volume info**. These are normal and will not harm the Archos™ 204.

Problem: Can I defragment the Archos™ 204's hard drive?

Answer: (Windows Device Mode) The Archos™ 204 maintains an optimized file system and does not need to be defragmented. Defragmenting will cause unexpected problems

Problem: I want to reformat the hard drive of the Archos™ 204.

Solution: You can do this, but it will erase ALL of the data on your Archos™ 204. First, as explained above, you should run ScanDisk or the DOS chkdsk (Check Disk) program to try to fix your problem. These will solve your problems 99% of the time. Note that Windows® XP and 2000 will, by default, format your Archos™ 204 hard drive in the NTFS file format. This will make the Archos™ 204 unusable. **Make sure you tell it to format the hard drive in FAT32 format.**

12.2.1 Windows® ME Running Scan-Disk (Error Checking) - Hard Drive Mode only

- Quit all running applications.
- Properly connect the Archos™ 204 to your computer as explained in chapter 9.
- Right click on the Archos™ 204 hard drive in Windows® Explorer and select Properties.
- Select the Tools option and run the Error checking program.
- Make sure you check the box to **automatically fix errors**.
- Be patient, this may take a while. Windows® may ask you to restart the computer to make certain Windows® files available. This is OK, click on **Yes**.

12.2.2 Windows® XP & 2000 Running Check Disk Utility (Chkdsk) - Hard Drive Mode only

If you still have problems with the file system on your Archos™ 204 you can try to fix it using the DOS utility, check disk (chkdsk). Simply running the Windows® program Error Checking may not completely fix disk errors. Do the following:

- Quit all running applications.
- Properly connect the Archos™ 204 to your computer as explained in chapter 9.
- Wait patiently (up to 5 minutes) for Windows® XP to show the **Archos™ 204** or **local drive** as mounted.
- Using the Command Prompt utility program, open a DOS window.
Start > Programs > Accessories > Command Prompt.
- At the prompt, type **chkdsk e: /f**. Use **e:** or the drive letter representing your Archos™ 204.
- Be patient, this may take a while.
- When it is finished, exit the DOS Window and properly disconnect the Archos™ 204 from your computer.

13 Technical Specifications

Archos™ 204

Storage Capacity	See front of package.
Computer Interface	High Speed USB 2.0 (compatible USB 1.1)
Audio Playback	MP3 (Stereo, decoding 32-320 kb/s CBR & VBR), WMA, WAV (PCM), WMA protected files.
Photo Viewer	JPEG (not progressive JPEG).
Screen	1.8" OLED color screen, 262 000 colors, 160 x 128 pixels.
Playback Autonomy	Up to 20 hours*
Scalability	Free Operating System updates downloadable from ARCHOS web site
Audio Connection	Standard 3.5mm mini stereo headphone jack.
Power	Internal rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery. Charged via USB cable through the computer. Optional charger/adaptor available.
System Requirements	Windows® ME, 2000, XP or higher - Mac: OS X or higher with USB Mass Storage Class support - Linux. Computer with USB 2.0 interface (compatible USB 1.1 at a lower speed). For protected WMA files: PC with Windows XP SP1 or higher with Windows Media® Player 10/11. USB 2.0 interface (compatible USB 1.1 at a lower speed).

*Depending on usage (stop/start/settings/file type/etc.)

14 Technical Support

Need Help? You can find the information you need:

- on our Website: see the frequently asked questions section on www.archos.com/faq
- by asking our technical support team: visit www.archos.com/support for e-mail support.
- U.S. & Canada: Call 877-300-8879 (toll free).

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