NAME

alsamixer - soundcard mixer for ALSA soundcard driver, with ncurses interface

SYNOPSIS

alsamixer [*options*]

DESCRIPTION

alsamixer is an ncurses mixer program for use with the ALSA soundcard drivers. It supports multiple soundcards with multiple devices.

OPTIONS

-h, --help
> Help: show available flags.

-c, --card <card number or identification>
> Select the soundcard to use, if you have more than one. Cards are numbered from 0 (the default).

-D, --device <device identification>
> Select the mixer device to control.

-V, --view <mode>
> Select the starting view mode, either *playback*, *capture* or *all*.

-g, --no-color
> Toggle the using of colors.

MIXER VIEWS

The top-left corner of **alsamixer** is the are to show some basic information: the card name, the mixer chip name, the current view mode and the currently selected mixer item. When the mixer item is switched off, *[Off]* is displayed in its name.

Volume bars are located below the basic information area. You can scroll left/right when all controls can't be put in a single screen. The name of each control is shown in the bottom below the volume bars. The currently selected item is drawn in red and/of emphasized.

Each mixer control with volume capability shows a box and the current volume filled in that box. The volume percentages are displayed below the volume bar for left and right channels. For a mono control, only one value is shown there.

When a mixer control is turned off, *M* (mute) appears below the volume bar. When it's turned on, *O* in green appears instead. You can toggle the switch via *m* key.

When a mixer control has capture capability, the capture flag appears below the volume bar, too. When the capture is turned off, ------- is shown. *CAPTURE* in red appears when the capture switch is turned on. In addition, *L* and *R* letters appear in left and right side to indicate that left and the right channels are turned on.

Some controls have the enumeration list, and don't show boxes but only texts which indicate the currently active item. You can change the item via up/down keys.

VIEW MODES

alsamixer has three view modes: playback, capture and all. In the playback view, only the controls related with playback are shown. Similarly, only the controls for capture (recording) are shown in the capture view. The all view mode shows all controls. The current view mode is displayed in the top-left position together with the mixer name, etc.

The default view mode is the playback view. You can change it via *-V* option.

Each view mode can be switched via keyboard commands, too. See the next section.

KEYBOARD COMMANDS

alsamixer recognizes the following keyboard commands to control the soundcard. Commands shown here in upper case can also be given in lower case. To be reminded of these keystrokes, hit the *h* key.

General Controls

The *Left* and *right arrow* keys are used to select the channel (or device, depending on your preferred terminology). You can also use *n* (next) and *p* (previous).

The *Up* and *Down Arrows* control the volume for the currently selected device. You can also use *+* or *-* for the same purpose. Both the left and right signals are affected. For independent left and right control, see below.

The *B* or *=* key adjusts the balance of volumes on left and right channels.

M toggles muting for the current channel (both left and right). If the hardware supports it, you can mute left and right independently by using *,* (or <) and *.* (or >) respectively.

SPACE enables recording for the current channel. If any other channels have recording enabled, they will have their recording function disabled first. This only works for valid input channels, of course.

L re-draws the screen.

View Mode Controls

Function keys are used to change view modes. You can switch to the help mode and the proc info mode via *F1* and *F2* keys, respectively. On terminals that can't use function keys like gnome-terminal, *?* and */* keys can be used alternatively for help and proc modes.

F3, *F4* and *F5* keys are used to switch to playback, capture and all view mode, respectively. *TAB* key toggles the current view mode circularly.

Quick Volume Changes

PageUp increases volume by 5.

PageDown decreases volume by 5.

End sets volume to 0.

You can also control left & right levels for the current channel independently, as follows:

[*Q* | *W* | *E*] -- turn UP [left | both | right]

[*Z* | *X* | *C*] -- turn DOWN [left | both | right]

If the currently selected mixer channel is not a stereo channel, then all UP keys will work like *W*, and all DOWN keys will work like *X*.

The number keys from *0* to *9* are to change the absolute volume quickly. They correspond to 0 to 90% volume.

Selecting the Sound Card

You can select another sound card by pressing the *F6* or *S* keys. This will show a list of available sound cards to choose from, and an entry to enter the mixer device name by hand.

Exiting

Quit the program with *ALT Q*, or by hitting *ESC*. Please note that you might need to hit *ESC* twice on some terminals since it's regarded as a prefix key.

VOLUME MAPPING

In **alsamixer**, the volume is mapped to a value that is more natural for a human ear. The mapping is designed so that the position in the interval is proportional to the volume as a human ear would perceive it, i.e. the position is the cubic root of the linear sample multiplication factor. For controls with a small range (24 dB or less), the mapping is linear in the dB values so that each step has the same size visually.

Only for controls without dB information, a linear mapping of the hardware volume register values is used (this is the same algorithm as used in the old **alsamixer**).

SEE ALSO

amixer(1), aplay(1), arecord(1)

BUGS

Some terminal emulators (e.g. **nxterm**) may not work quite right with ncurses, but that's their own damn fault. Plain old **xterm** seems to be fine.

AUTHOR

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