

# Extended Command Line Support

This page provides information on Pdplayer's command line support.

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## Overview

Pdplayer's extensive command line support allows you to have full control over Pdplayer through any external application that can pass commands to it. The set of commands and their function is explained the `pdplayer.cmdline.txt` file that can be found in the installation directory of Pdplayer. The general form of a Pdplayer command line is:

```
"C:\Program Files\pdplayer\pdplayer.exe" [--attach] <options> layer1 <layer-options> layer2 <layer-options> ...  
[--exit]
```

where *<options>* are the global (composition) options and *<layer-options>* are the layer-specific options that are applied to the layer that was last added.

A full reference of the options is available in [Command Reference](#) page.

## System Option

The optional *--attach* should be the first option. If it's absent, a new instance of Pdplayer is started with the specified options. If *--attach* is present, the command line is sent to an existing instance of Pdplayer, which then executes it. If no Pdplayer instances are active, a new one is started. If several Pdplayer instances are active, a random one among them is chosen.

The optional *--exit* should be the last option. It makes Pdplayer exit after processing the command line and before creating the main window. This is useful for batch conversions.

The *--cmdfile=file.ext* option instructs Pdplayer to read the text file `file.ext` and to execute the commands in it as if they were given directly on the command line.

## Layers

**layerN** represents the file name (or names) of the source of the new layer. For still images and movies, it is the name of the file. For sequences, it can have the following forms:

**path/file014.ext** – Names one frame of the sequence. Pdplayer will automatically detect that the file is part of a sequence by examining the trailing digits in the name. Both \ and / are valid as path separators.

**path/file####.ext** or **path/file????.ext** – The ? or # characters are automatically replaced with digits as appropriate.

**path/file%04d.ext** – The %04d is equivalent to ####, where the number of the # characters corresponds to the number before the d. Supported for NUKE compatibility.

The file name can be followed by the *--range* option, which has the following general format:

```
--range=B1-E1/S1,B2-E2/S2...
```

where *Bi* is the start frame, *Ei* is the end frame, and *Si* is the frame step. *-Ei* and */Si* are optional. As an example,

```
test.####.tga --range=1-4,100-200/20,204,207
```

represents the sequence

```
test.0001.tga
```

test.0002.tga

test.0003.tga

test.0004.tga

test.0100.tga

test.0120.tga

test.0140.tga

test.0160.tga

test.0180.tga

test.0200.tga

test.0204.tga

test.0207.tga

## Examples

### Building a simple PAL composition from the command line

```
start pdplayer --fps=25 --global_aspect=1.067 --back_color=black --mask=720,576 d:\footage\back0001.tga --alpha=ignore --brightness=0.1 d:\footage\front0001.tga -blend=add --opacity=20
```

### Batch converting an EXR sequence to TGA

```
start pdplayer d:\footage\seq0001.exr --exposure=-0.5 --soft_clip=3.5 --save_layer_as=d:\footage\seq2.tga -exit
```

### Creating a quick time H.264 movie from a sequence

```
start pdplayer d:\footage\seq2.0001.tga --save_layer_as=d:\footage\seq2.mov,avc1 --exit
```