

MuteCast Handbook

Understand detection, choose what to skip, and teach MuteCast



Listen to podcasts, not interruptions.

MuteCast combines subscriptions, offline playback, transcripts and on-device analysis. You decide for every podcast which detected passages may be skipped automatically.

What this handbook explains

- ✓ How Basic Analysis and Audio Verification work
- ✓ What the colours on the timeline mean
- ✓ How to teach recurring ads and self-promotion
- ✓ How iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch and CarPlay work together

No MuteCast account, no tracking SDK and no server-side episode analysis.

Use the chapter links to jump directly to a topic. Every page also links back here.

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A useful route for first-time users

Start with How MuteCast thinks, then follow Quick start, Podcast Learning and Teach MuteCast while listening.

Follow the navigation described in this edition. Earlier phone and Mac navigation screenshots have been omitted; the remaining illustrations explain individual controls.

A visible segment is not automatically a learned pattern or an automatic skip. MuteCast separates five steps so that you remain in control.

1. Timed transcript

Publisher-provided, stored or locally generated text connects spoken words with the playback position.

2. Detected segment

Chapters, transcript wording, structure, known inserts, corrections and-when local audio exists-audio evidence create a candidate range.

3. Marked or corrected

Your red or yellow action stores a high-confidence correction for this episode and a reusable text pattern for this podcast.

4. Learned evidence

Later episodes of the same podcast can reuse matching text. Position-based habits require several compatible corrections; nothing is learned globally.

5. Auto-Skip decision

Only enabled segment types that pass the playback policy are skipped. Visible, uncertain or weak candidates can remain on the timeline without a jump.

Four words that matter

Detected

MuteCast found a possible segment and shows it.

Marked

You identified the current passage as Ad or Self-promotion.

Learned

Podcast-specific evidence may be reused in later episodes.

Auto-skipped

Playback actually moved after every safety check passed.

MuteCast

Audio Verification only runs when local audio is available. Uncertain segments are never automatically skipped.

A new episode becomes most useful after it has been downloaded, transcribed and analysed. MuteCast can prepare this automatically; the queue shows the exact state.

1. Add a podcast

Search for a show or add its RSS feed. Subscribe so new episodes can be found automatically.

2. Set the rules

Open the podcast settings. Enable ad detection and choose which segment types may be skipped.

3. Prepare an episode

Stream immediately or download for offline playback. A local file allows complete transcription and audio verification.

4. Check the queue

Transcription is followed by Basic Analysis and then Audio Verification. Progress and pauses are shown separately.

5. Start listening

The coloured timeline shows detected passages. MuteCast only skips types that you enabled and that pass its safety checks.

Good default

Begin with ads and self-promotion. Review a few episodes before enabling additional segment types.

What MuteCast knows and what to do next

MuteCast learns each podcast separately. Prepare one episode, mark a block when the app needs help, and enable Auto-Skip when the results look right.

Podcast Learning

The Podcast Learning card shows whether detection and Auto-Skip are active, whether the current episode is ready, and how many recurring patterns MuteCast already knows.

Your Marking

The player confirms the actual duration that was marked and skipped.

Why was this skipped?

After a manual mark or automatic skip, choose Why? in the player. MuteCast shows the source, confidence, time range, and any limitations of that decision.

Undo

If Auto-Skip removes real content, choose Undo in the player feedback. Playback returns to the point before the skip and MuteCast records the segment as content for future learning.

Auto-Skip counts as a confirmed success only after playback continues for 20 seconds after the landing point. Undo revokes that success and records a correction.

MuteCast does not rely on one keyword. It combines several kinds of evidence and stores the result with the episode.

Transcript and structure**Initial Analysis****Audio Verification****Playback policy****Transcript and structure**

Timestamps, show notes, chapters and language cues locate likely boundaries and commercial wording.

Initial Analysis

Text patterns, episode structure and your podcast-specific corrections produce candidate segments.

Audio Verification

When a local audio file is available, acoustic changes and recurring audio cues can confirm or refine boundaries.

Playback policy

A visible result is checked again against confidence, evidence and your settings before Auto-Skip is allowed.

Detection is assistance, not a guarantee

Podcasts change their wording and dynamically inserted ads may differ between downloads. Review important results and correct mistakes; your corrections improve later episodes of the same podcast.

Different shows need different rules. MuteCast therefore keeps detection, Auto-Skip, segment selection and playback speed with the individual subscription.

Ad detection

Allows automatic preparation and displays recognised segments.

Skip detected segments

Enables Auto-Skip for the selected types. Turn it off when you only want visual markers.

Segment types

Select ads, self-promotion, donation calls, introductions and outros independently.

Playback speed

Choose a comfortable default for this podcast; the player can still change it temporarily.

Timeline colours

Ad

Third-party commercial message

Self-promotion

Promotion of the show or publisher

Donation call

Membership or donation request

Introduction

Opening before the main content

Outro

Closing after the main content

Uncertain

Evidence is not strong enough for automatic skipping

The thin coloured line is a map of the whole episode. The white marker is your position; coloured sections are detected segments.



Tap a segment

Open its details, confidence and source. In the transcript, matching text uses the same colour.

Visible does not always mean automatic

A coloured marker is a detection result, not proof of an automatic jump. Check the selected category, evidence and skip history.

You stay in control

Use chapters, the scrubber, 15 seconds back or 30 seconds forward at any time. Auto-Skip seeks past a segment; it never deletes audio.

Across devices

Playback positions and settings can sync through iCloud. Downloads remain local and another device may need its own analysis.

A coloured segment was not skipped?

Automatic skips require detection, Auto-Skip and the matching category to be enabled for this podcast. Self-promotion and donation calls are separate categories. A manual mark can jump immediately; it does not enable that category for later automatic skips. Review the source and explanation when a marker does not trigger a jump.

Open the episode and load a readable timed transcript. A text block must cover the current position; the entire transcript need not be finished. If it is missing, use Create transcript and check the queue. An analysis-completed label alone does not make a text block available.

Ad

Self-promotion

Choose the red button

Use it for third-party advertising.

Choose the yellow button

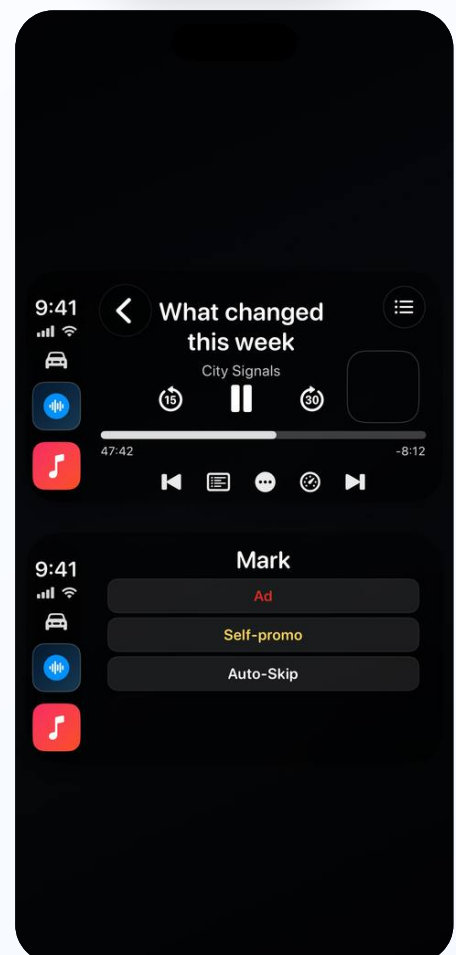
Use it when the publisher promotes its own products, events or subscriptions.

Continue listening

If the playhead is still in that block, MuteCast moves to its end and refreshes Auto-Skip immediately.

Reuse the pattern

Later analyses compare the learned wording with other episodes of the same podcast. It is not applied globally.



Where to find the actions

iPhone and iPad: directly below the timeline

Mac: in the episode player and permanent mini player

Apple Watch: red and yellow controls in Now Playing

CarPlay: More → Mark → Ad or Self-promotion

You can also press a transcript block and add its context to the known inserts.

Some breaks last much longer than 30 seconds. MuteCast turns repeated user skips into one growing, podcast-specific pattern.

Ad
0 s

+30
≤ 10 s

+30
≤ 10 s

+30
≤ 10 s

1. Mark the current block

Tap the red or yellow action. This creates the beginning of the learned commercial range.

2. Skip forward again within 10 seconds

Press +30 once more if commercial content continues. MuteCast extends the same correction instead of creating a second pattern.

3. Repeat when necessary

Every additional +30 within the rolling 10-second window can extend the same block, including breaks lasting several minutes.

4. Let MuteCast stop earlier when safe

If the transcript contains a reliable return-to-content cue before the full 30 seconds, MuteCast may land there instead.

What is learned

The stored correction covers the complete confirmed range. Representative wording from the beginning, middle and end becomes reusable evidence, while the return to editorial content stays outside the pattern.

A backward jump, scrubbing, a chapter change, another episode or an expired 10-second window ends the chain. Automatic skips never extend it.

Corrections are part of the learning loop. Choose the route that matches where you noticed the mistake.

Undo an Auto-Skip

Choose Undo in the player feedback. Playback returns to the segment start, the skip success is revoked and the passage is stored as content.

Correct Episode Analysis on iPhone or iPad

Use As Ad or As Content on a detected row, or Add Correction for another type and a custom time range.

Undo a learned text pattern

Press the matching transcript text and choose Undo. MuteCast removes that learned text pattern or variant and its confirmation for the current episode.

Manage Known Inserts

In Settings → Known Inserts you can edit, disable, import, export or delete text patterns. Deleting one does not erase older episode corrections.

Stop learned behaviour without deleting history

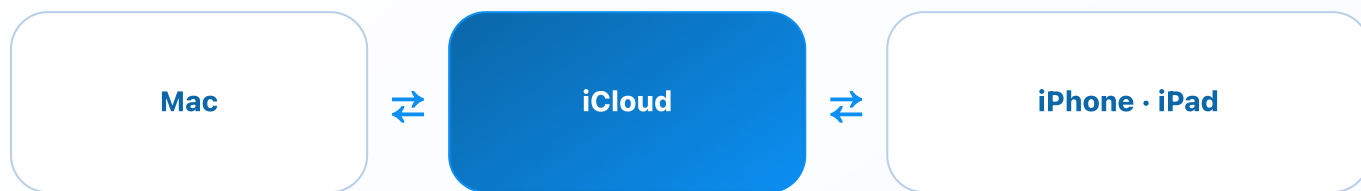
Disable Auto-Skip or Detection for that podcast. Position-based recurring patterns currently have no separate delete list; Known Inserts manages text patterns only.

Mac provides Auto-Skip feedback with Undo and Known Inserts management, but not the same Episode Analysis correction sheet as iPhone and iPad.

MuteCast uses each Apple device for what it does best. The same podcast knowledge can follow you, while large media files remain under your control on each device.

- ✓ The native, resizable desktop app combines a sidebar, library, transcript and analysis with a persistent mini player.
- ✓ The red Ad and yellow Self-promotion buttons are available in the episode player and mini player; clicking a transcript row seeks to that time or saves a known insert.
- ✓ Mac also offers OPML subscription import and export, JSON backup for known inserts, System/Light/Dark appearance and adjustable transparency.
- ✓ Shortcuts: ⌘N add podcast, ⌘R refresh feeds, ⇧⌘A mark ad and ⇧⌘S mark self-promotion.

Enable Settings → Sync → iCloud Sync separately on every device signed into the same Apple Account. Synchronisation uses CloudKit and may need a little time.



Can synchronise

- ✓ Subscriptions, queue, current episode and saved playback position
- ✓ Podcast detection, Auto-Skip and selected segment-type settings
- ✓ Known Inserts, corrections, detected segments and learned patterns
- ✓ Stored analysis results and other small library state

Does not move automatically

- ✓ Audio downloads and other large local media files
- ✓ Full transcripts that were generated only on one device
- ✓ Prepared choices inside the Messages extension
- ✓ A new position into a device that is currently playing

- ✓ Use the same Apple Account, enable Settings → Sync → iCloud Sync separately on every device, and restart MuteCast after changing the switch.
- ✓ Give CloudKit time to exchange data and use Check Sync to confirm a successful import or export. An incoming position never interrupts a device that is already playing.

MuteCast saves progress roughly every 15 seconds and at important transitions. When playback is stopped, the newest saved position can be applied on another device.

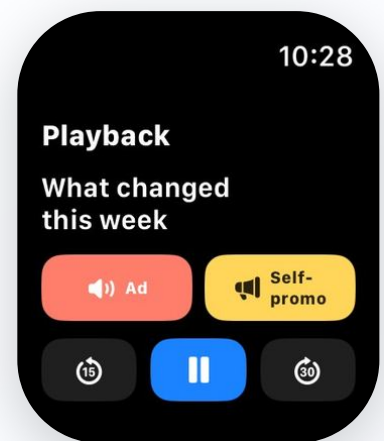
iPhone, iPad and Mac do the full work. Apple Watch and CarPlay control the iPhone experience; Messages shares only a deliberately selected item.

Function	iPhone / iPad	Mac	Watch	CarPlay	Messages
Library and playback	Full	Full	Via iPhone	Via iPhone	Share only
Transcript	Full	Full	Not available	Not available	Share only
Analysis and segment status	Full	Full	Status only	Status only	Not available
Red and yellow marking	Full	Full	Via iPhone	Via iPhone	Not available
Auto-Skip during playback	Full	Full	Via iPhone	Via iPhone	Not available
Manage Known Inserts	Full	Full	Not available	Not available	Not available
Share an episode or current position	Full	Full	Not available	Not available	Share only
iPhone connection required	Runs here	No	Yes	Yes	Runs here

Watch marking needs a reachable paired iPhone. CarPlay runs through the connected iPhone. On Mac, sharing sends an episode link with the current playback position. The Messages extension is available on iPhone and iPad, not on Mac.

The complication is a glanceable status display. Marking controls stay inside the Watch app, updates are not second-exact, and watchOS may adapt colours on tinted or monochrome faces.

- ✓ The Watch app is an iPhone companion, not a standalone podcast player. Start an episode on the paired iPhone, then open MuteCast on Apple Watch.
- ✓ If Waiting for iPhone appears, open MuteCast on iPhone and check the connection. The Watch shows episode, chapter, time, speed and the coloured segment timeline.
- ✓ Use 15 seconds back, play/pause, 30 seconds forward, chapter controls and Volume with the Digital Crown. Red and yellow marking needs a reachable iPhone and a timed transcript; it is unavailable for music.
- ✓ If a marked block continues, press +30 again within ten seconds. Further presses extend it, while MuteCast may stop earlier at a reliable return to content.

**Ad****Self-promotion**

Watch-face complication families: Circular shows playback and timeline; Rectangular adds title and remaining time; Inline shows title or segment type; Corner uses a timeline gauge.

Complications are glanceable playback displays. The red and yellow marking controls remain inside the MuteCast Watch app.



Circular

Playback symbol, coloured episode segments and the current position in one ring.

Rectangular

Episode title, podcast, remaining time and a coloured timeline.

Inline

Episode title or the active segment type in a single line.

Corner

Playback symbol with the episode timeline around the watch-face corner.

watchOS decides the refresh rhythm and can adapt colours on tinted or monochrome faces. A complication is therefore not second-exact and may look different from the full-colour examples. On compatible watch faces, watchOS draws the Corner timeline only after you place the complication on the face.

CarPlay is a focused remote surface for MuteCast on the connected iPhone. Detection, transcript and learning remain on the phone.

1. Open More

On Now Playing, choose Apple's More button. It replaces a crowded row of extra controls.

2. Choose Mark

The action menu offers Ad and Self-promotion and, when relevant, the current Auto-Skip information.

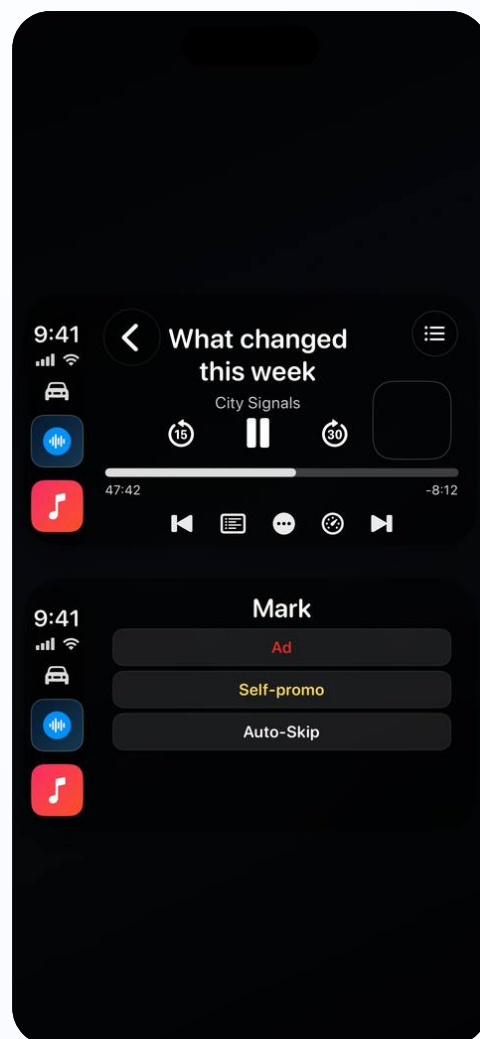
3. Mark red or yellow

Request red for third-party advertising or yellow for the publisher's own promotion. CarPlay may adapt these colours for sufficient contrast.

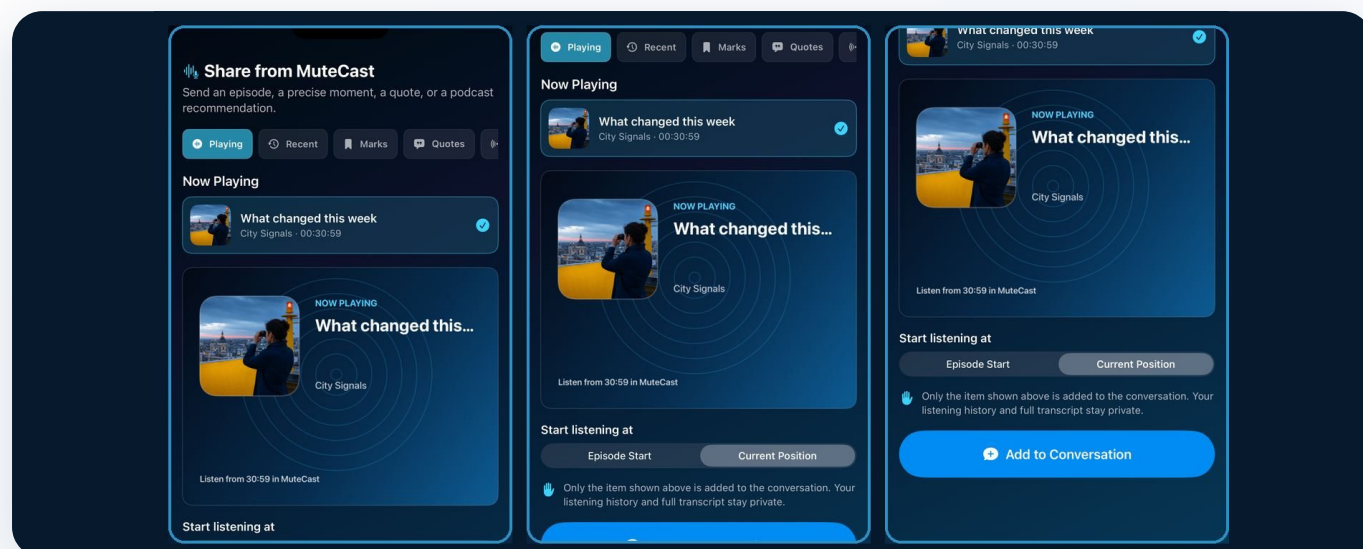
4. Continue driving

The iPhone stores the correction and pattern. Eligible upcoming Auto-Skips can be announced about 20 seconds before the jump.

A timed transcript and the connected iPhone state are required. CarPlay does not offer the correction sheet, Known Inserts management or analysis settings.



The Messages extension prepares a card; it never sends automatically. Send an episode, a precise moment, a quote, or a podcast recommendation.



1. Choose

Select Now Playing, a recent episode, a bookmark, a quote or a podcast.

2. Review

Check the preview and choose episode start or the saved/current position where offered.

3. Add

Add the draft to the conversation, review it once more and tap Send yourself.

What you can share

Now Playing

Recently Played

Current Position

Episode Start

Chapters & Bookmarks

Quotes

Recommend Podcast

Open MuteCast to play an episode, add a bookmark, select a transcript excerpt, or choose a podcast to recommend.

The Messages app is not available on Mac. Prepared choices stay on the same iPhone or iPad and do not sync through iCloud. Only the selected item is shared; history and the full transcript remain private. A deliberately selected quote is limited to 500 characters.

Private by design

Only the item shown above is added to the conversation. Your listening history and full transcript stay private.

Downloaded episodes are now in My Lists > Downloaded, with artwork. There is no separate Downloads tab.

Add a podcast

In Podcasts, use the visible + / Add feed action to search or enter an RSS feed. Subscribe, then refresh the feed to discover new episodes.

Automatic downloads: seven days

Subscriptions participate automatically; there is no separate auto-download switch. After refresh, eligible unplayed, unarchived episodes from the last seven days are queued, including previously discovered episodes. Reopening MuteCast checks for pending feed updates, downloads, transcription and analysis. Background execution is limited by the system; overnight completion is not guaranteed.

Network and deliberate deletion

Settings > Downloads separates mobile-data rules for feeds, streaming and downloads. Check the queue for progress or waiting reasons, and check the download limit and available storage. Allowed network and processing conditions still apply. Older episodes can be downloaded manually. Deliberately deleted downloads are not endlessly downloaded again; a manual download can request them again.

Reorder downloaded episodes

On iPhone/iPad, open My Lists > Downloaded > Edit and drag the handles; at least two episodes are needed. On Mac, move episodes outside multiple-selection mode. The order is saved; the playback queue is managed separately.

This optional podcast feature shortens longer speech pauses. It does not affect music.

Enable the global switch

Open Settings > Playback > Shorten Silence. It is off by default. Listen to a familiar episode after enabling it.

Exclude a podcast

Open the podcast settings and turn off Shorten Silence for This Podcast. This control becomes available after the global switch is enabled. Voice Boost and Auto-Skip can be used at the same time.

Read the time balance

Episode details show the seconds actually removed in the time balance, separately from skips and playback-speed savings. If pauses should remain unchanged, turn the feature off for that podcast.

The Auto-Skip History remains on this device. It is available globally in Settings and for an episode in its analysis details.

Understand the decision

A successful automatic skip records its time, original range, label, confidence, source and explanation. Confidence is evidence, not a guarantee.

Undo later

Choose Undo in the history to load the episode and return to the original position. The associated saved time is revoked; the audio has not been deleted.

Correct a label

Use Correction to change the classification. Relevant learned evidence is used in the next analysis of the same podcast, not indiscriminately across other shows or all existing episodes.

Open Transcript in the main navigation on iPhone, iPad or Mac and enter a search term.

Find spoken words

Search covers available transcript text, not just episode titles. Prepare or analyse an episode first if its transcript is missing. An empty search shows no browse list; a query returns at most 200 results.

Listen at the result

Each result identifies the podcast, episode and timestamp. Use playback to open the episode at that exact passage.

Share text, not an audio clip

The separate Share action sends a text quotation and episode link. Quotes are limited to 500 characters as perceived by the reader. This does not share the full transcript or create an audio clip; transcripts are not newly synchronized by this feature.

Podcast Settings > Notifications controls new episodes, completed downloads and completed full analyses together.

Give permission when ready

The system request can appear after your first successfully saved subscription, not at app launch. You can also choose Allow Notifications in podcast settings; after denial, open system Settings.

Choose each podcast

New subscriptions start with their notification switch on; older migrated subscriptions may be off. Switch off any podcast you do not want to hear from.

Open the episode

Tap a notification to open the related episode. These are local notifications after MuteCast discovers or finishes work, not instant server push. Background and network limits can delay discovery, downloads and notifications.

Allow music access in Music. An already authorized library is prepared in the background; first access or a refresh can still take time.

Open the full player

Tap the current track in Music or the mini-player. Use previous/next, play/pause and the draggable position bar. Inspect Up Next and the queue. Toggle shuffle separately; repeat offers off, one track or the queue.

Browse and resume

Songs, albums and artists have sorting menus. Playback settings and navigation are saved. Existing library content remains available during refresh; a non-playable track shows a reason. Use the offered Settings or Retry action when needed.

Pin playlists on iPhone

In Music > Playlists, choose Show on Watch and in Car. Up to ten playlists can be pinned; remaining slots use listening activity and recent content. Pinning does not download music to the Watch or enable standalone Watch playback.

Use CarPlay safely

The music views provide direct access to Now Playing and the music queue, with previous/next and shuffle. Controls follow the active music or podcast source. Configure playlists while parked; availability depends on the track, connection and vehicle.

A coloured marker is a detection result, not proof of an automatic jump. Check the selected category, evidence and skip history.

Compare spoken and supplied text

Where available, MuteCast compares locally transcribed audio with the publisher's transcript. Extra spoken passages can provide evidence of inserted ads, but transcript differences alone are not a guarantee.

Use sponsor information

Show notes and explicitly linked Linktree sponsor profiles provide additional context. Access needs a network connection. A sponsor name alone is insufficient; the spoken passage needs matching commercial evidence. Your transcript is not sent to these pages.

Review the boundaries

Automatic intros belong near the beginning and outros near the end. Ads, self-promotion and donation calls can occur in the middle. Review mixed text blocks so editorial speech is not included in a learned ad passage.

Correct and check again

Correct the label or range in the transcript or segment details. Learned patterns apply to the same podcast. Reanalyse when needed, then inspect the results. Undo a wrong automatic jump in Skip History. If it still fails, report the app build, episode and exact time to support.

If preparation seems to wait

- ✓ Download work can have priority before analysis, especially on iPhone and iPad.
- ✓ Low battery, background limits, storage pressure or disabled analysis can pause work.
- ✓ Open the queue for the reason, progress percentage and Continue action.
- ✓ Manual and currently played episodes receive higher priority than older automatic work.

What iCloud synchronises

- ✓ Subscriptions, settings, playback positions and learned patterns can sync through Apple's iCloud.
- ✓ Audio downloads and their local state do not move automatically between devices.
- ✓ Large or locally generated transcripts may remain device-specific; another device can prepare its own analysis.
- ✓ A downloaded episode is not silently replaced just because its feed changes.

Quick checks

Red or yellow action is unavailable

Open the episode and load a readable timed transcript. A text block must cover the current position; the entire transcript need not be finished. If it is missing, use Create transcript and check the queue. An analysis-completed label alone does not make a text block available.

Marker is visible but nothing skips

Enable Auto-Skip and that segment type for this podcast; wait for current verification.

Another device shows no analysis

Download or prepare the episode on that device. Audio files are not synced.

A result is wrong

Review a detected segment in Episode Analysis. Correct its type when necessary, or use Podcast Settings to choose exactly which segment types may be skipped automatically.

Private by design

Episode analysis runs on your device where supported. MuteCast uses no account, analytics or tracking SDK. Network access is still required for feeds, artwork, downloads and publisher-provided transcripts.

More help and current product information:

[Support](#) [Privacy](#) support-mutecast@tstange.de