

Alsa

Official Alsa pages:

- [Asoundrc](#)
- <http://alsa.opensrc.org/Asoundrc>
- [Alsa PCM plugins](#)

Very precious notes from users:

- <http://www.volkerschatz.com/noise/alsa.html>
- [Linux ALSA sound notes](#)

asoundrc / asound.conf

By default sound is processed through dmix plugin which handles rate and channels conversion.

Plugin: hw

This plugin communicates directly with the ALSA kernel driver. It is a raw communication without any conversions.

To override “default” pcm device and route output directly into hardware:

```
pcm.!default {
    type hw
    card 0
    format S16_LE
}
```

With settings above, there is no possibility to play mono sound (channel=1), when there is stereo audio device.

Change default card:

```
pcm.!default {
    type hw
    card 1
    device 3
}

ctl.!default {
    type hw
    card 1
    device 3
}
```

Plugin: plug

Is a plugin responsible for rate and format conversion.

```
pcm.!default {
    type plug
    slave {
        pcm "hw:0,0"
        format S16_LE
    }
}
```

There might be problems with some programs though. Some applications always try to open a control device with the same name as the pcm device they are given, so you may also need to create a dummy control device with the same name:

```
ctl.!default {
    type hw
    card 0
}
```

Plugin: asym

asym is an ALSA PCM plugin that combines half-duplex PCM plugins like dsnoop and dmix into one full-duplex device. <http://alsa.opensrc.org/Asym>

Plugin: dmix

PCM plugins extend the functionality of PCM devices allowing low-level sample conversions and copying between channels, files and soundcard devices. The dmix plugin provides for direct mixing of multiple streams. <http://alsa.opensrc.org/Dmix>

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