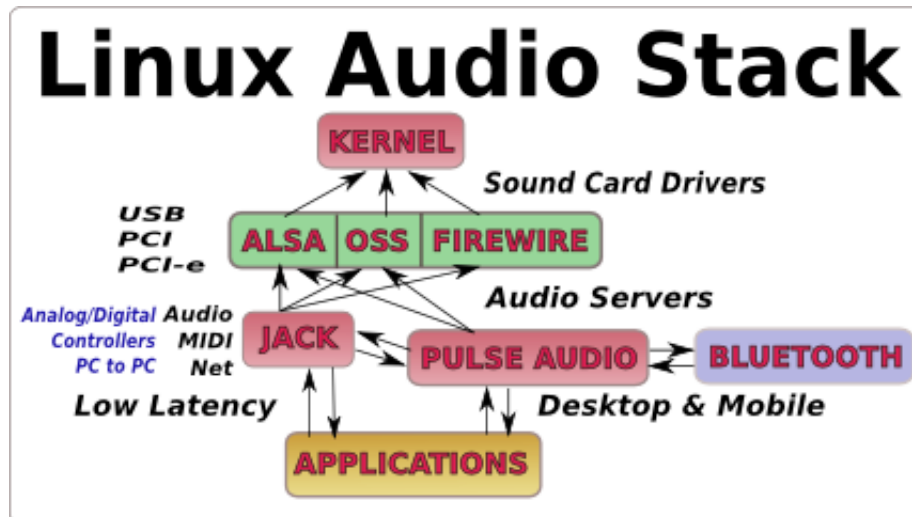# How to boost Linux sound volume over 100% - Maximum Volume Audio Boost in GNOME and KDE

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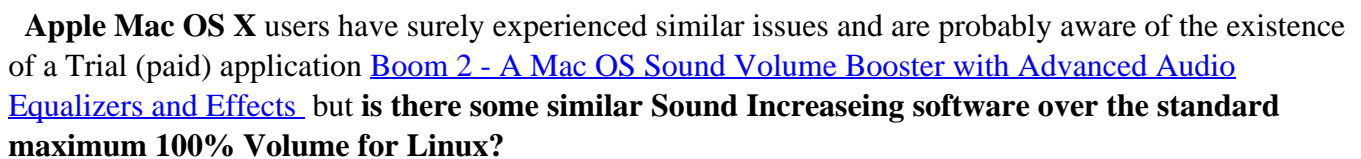## How to boost Linux sound volume over 100% to 150% or 200% ?

If you have recently migrated to *Free Software Operating System Fedora, Ubuntu or Debian GNU / Linux, OpenSuSE* **with GNOME / Mate / KDE / Xfce graphical environment, you might encounter that sometimes when using your computer for Multimedia the audio sound produced and streamed to the Sound Card is very low, so low that it prevents you from comprehending what the video, music etc. played says or you have to strain hardly your ears to hear what is to be said.**

Let me illustrate what I mean, **say you watch an educational video within Firefox / Opera (browser) in Youtube** or **listen some songs playlist** in **Vimeo.COM** and the Sound on the follow up video suddenly becomes so low that you can't understand what the Coach or Instructor on the video is saying, or it could be a *low sound within a Video downloaded on the PC* and watched with **Mplayer** or **VLC** (**Movie Players**),
or lets say you listen **MP3** / **MP4** / **OGG Song**, **S3M** with **mpg123** (in console) or with **Qmmp** (**a graphical mp3 Windows WinAmp like player for Linux** similar to good old **XMMS** Player).

So what is to be done to increase the audio volume from your Linux powered Notebook over 100% ??

I assume you already tried everything possible such as using **aumix (Console / Terminal based tool) to boost your Sound Output to maximum** and you also checked *Gnome Alsa Mixer* to make sure the

Volume status is set to maximum but nothing helped as the sound produced is way lower behind you wish too.

By the using **alsamixer** command might help sometimes to increase the Linux sound volume a little bit but still you can't boost over 100% with it.

```
┌──────────────────────── AlsaMixer v1.1.3 ────────────────────────┐
  Card: HDA Intel PCH                        F1:  Help
  Chip: Conexant CX20590                     F2:  System information
  View: F3:[Playback] F4: Capture  F5: All   F6:  Select sound card
  Item: Master [dB gain: -2,00]              Esc: Exit


                                                            Enabled


     00      MM      00              00
     92      0<>0  100<>100  99<>99   0<>0   100            11<>11
  < Master >Headphon Speaker   PCM   Mic Boos  Beep  Auto-Mut Internal
```

Apple Mac OS X users have surely experienced similar issues and are probably aware of the existence of a Trial (paid) application [Boom 2 - A Mac OS Sound Volume Booster with Advanced Audio Equalizers and Effects](#) but **is there some similar Sound Increaseing software over the standard maximum 100% Volume for Linux?**

Well yes, there is its called *PavuControl*
(PulseAudio Volume Control)

linux-desktop:~# apt-cache show pavucontrol|grep -i description -A 3
Description-en: PulseAudio Volume Control
PulseAudio Volume Control (pavucontrol) is a simple GTK+ based volume
control tool (mixer) for the PulseAudio sound server. In contrast to
classic mixer tools this one allows you to control both the volume of

--

Description-md5: c43956d9d08801fbaa1a405d7b6a9e6b
Homepage: http://freedesktop.org/software/pulseaudio/pavucontrol/
Tag: admin::configuring, implemented-in::c++, interface::graphical,
 interface::x11, role::program, scope::utility, sound::mixer,
root@jericho:/home/hipo# apt-cache show pavucontrol|grep -i description -A 2
Description-en: PulseAudio Volume Control
 PulseAudio Volume Control (pavucontrol) is a simple GTK+ based volume
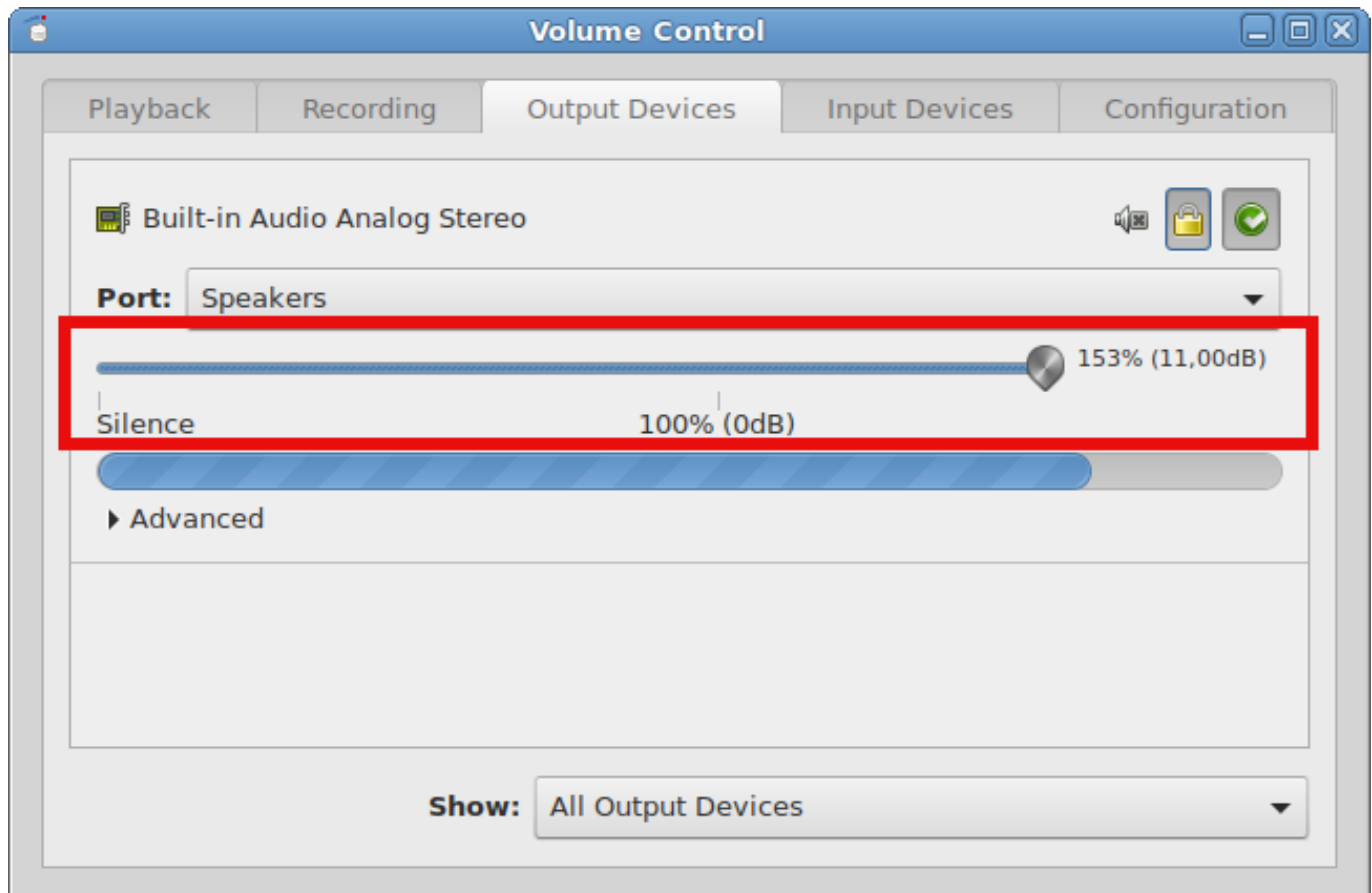 *control tool (mixer) for the PulseAudio sound server. In contrast to*
--
Description-md5: c43956d9d08801fbaa1a405d7b6a9e6b
Homepage: http://freedesktop.org/software/pulseaudio/pavucontrol/

To run it run pavucontrol from terminal program:

linux-desktop:~$ pavucontrol

If **pavucontrol** command is not present on your Linux install it with apt as usual:

```
linux-desktop:~# apt-get install --yes pavucontrol
...
```

Note that **PavuControl** is using PulseAudio Linux Sound Streaming server to boost the Audio and not the ALSA (Advanced Linux Sound Server - which receives sounds from various applications and paralyzes them in different sound channels).

If you want to prevent the Volume Boost audio increase over 100% to lets say either the 150% percentages, the maximum pavucontrol gives you can do that by including the **/usr/bin/pactl** command (which is a part of **pulseaudio-utils** package) to **/etc/rc.local** (be sure you include the command in rc.local before **exit 0** command)

To give it a test you can manually run from terminal:

```
linux-desktop:~$ pactl -- set-sink-volume 0 150%
```

You will notice the audio output sound increased immediately Note that the Sound boosting in Linux can be done over 150% to lets say 200% or 250 out of the normal maximum, and you can test 200% if you have a nice big speakers connected to your Computer to piss off your wife :), e.g. run:

```
# !!!!!!! RUN BELOW COMMAND AT YOUR OWN RISK AS THIS MIGHT DAMAGE YOUR COMPUTER OR EXTERNAL SOUND SPEAKERS !!!!!!
```

linux-desktop:~$ pactl -- set-sink-volume 0 250%