

**relations**

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# Chapter 1

## relations

### 1.1 A CD record example that uses relations between files

This example shows how db can use ARexx to implement simple relations between files, in this case a file with information on CDs and another file with songs. If you understand this example then there is nothing stopping you from making your very own customer-invoice system.

Instructions:

By splitting the data into two files like this we gain some advantages:

- \* Each CD can have any number of songs.
- \* No information is duplicated.

The two files are "connected" via a common field; the CD number (CD #). This field represents the relation between the files.

To play with this example read this:

You can start any of the files by doubleclicking them. You don't have to start both. db will load the other automatically when needed.

If you view the data for a specific CD and want to see the songs on that CD, then just doubleclick on the CD # field and voilà, the Songs file will pop up showing the first song that exist in that CD. Use Enter and Shift-Enter to view the other songs.

To go in the other direction, i.e. to view the CD that corresponds to a song, just doubleclick on the CD # field in the Song file. The CD database will be loaded if it isn't loaded already.

To add CD's read this:

(in the CD database)

1. Select "New" from db's menu and select the CD # field.
2. Enter a unique CD number. If you don't do that you will be warned.  
Or just press Enter or Tab to have db select a unique number for you.
3. Enter information in the other fields.

To add songs read this:

(in the Songs database)

1. Select "New" from db's menu and select the CD # field.
  2. Enter the number that corresponds to the desired CD.
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db will look for the corresponding CD and warn you if it isn't there.  
3. Enter information in the other fields.

To make your own databases with relations, read this:  
This is quite simple as I use a generic ARexx script to  
do look-ups in a database based upon the value in another.  
Examine the files in this drawer and you'll figure out how it works.

Enjoy!