

AUDACITY

Getting Started;

Audacity is **FREE** software (of course you can make a donation if its helpful to you)

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Documentation is at this same location along with other sites on the web.

WIKI - http://audacityteam.org/wiki/index.php?title=Audacity_Wiki_Home_Page

Useful info - <http://www.andybrain.com/archive/convert-cassette-to-cd-digital.htm>

Hints - http://audacityteam.org/wiki/index.php?title=Vocal_Removal

What you need (Physical setup);

You'll need a cassette tape player with a headphone jack, a computer with a soundcard, the "Audacity" software, and a 3.5mm (1/8-inch) male-male stereo audio cable. (Though 3.5mm is a standard size, your own hardware may be different.) A six-foot cable can be found for about \$6.00 at your local electronics store like Radio Shack. A cassette player, like a boom box, walkman or deck. A **amplified** turntable for converting LP's 78's or 45's. Or and 8 track player for 8 track tapes.

***Do not connect a turntable directly to your computer. The signal from a turntable is distorted, it must be corrected by passing it through a phono pre-amp or a receiver with a "phono" input.*

Vinyl or shellac records can also be recorded into Audacity with a special type of turntable that connects to the USB port of your computer. These turntables need to be set up differently to those that connect to your line-in port. For instructions on setting up USB turntables, see [USB turntables](#) on the Audacity WIKI.

Setup the software;

1) Start Audacity, and change the center dropdown box to "**Line in**" or "Microphone", depending on what soundcard jack you're using. This tells Audacity to record whatever it "hears" on your soundcard input. To prevent possible soundcard damage, use the "**Line in**" jack if possible, and not the "**Microphone**".

***NOTE:** Do not plug stereo equipment into your computer's "Microphone" port, which is designed for low-powered ("mic-level") signals only. Use the "Line In" port instead.*

2) The default input setting for Audacity is MONO. Select "Preferences" "audio i/o" and choose "stereo" (two tracks).

3) You should record a ten-second clip at first, so you can play it back immediately in Audacity (green triangle button ►) and make sure your volume levels are right. If the recorded audio is too loud or has too much static, decrease the volume on your player.

3) Press the "**RECORD**" button (red circle ●) on Audacity, then press "**PLAY**" on your cassette tape.

4) Press the "**STOP**" button (yellow square ■) on Audacity when you have recorded your selection or the complete side of the tape or CD.

Review of the TOOLBAR controls;

Control toolbar – Selection tool, Envelope tool, Draw tool, Zoom tool, Timeshift tool, Multi tool.

Audio toolbar - << Skip to Start, ► Play, ▣ Loop(Shift), ● Record, || Pause, ■ Stop, >> Skip to End.

Mixer toolbar - Playback volume, recording volume, input source.

Edit toolbar – Trim away audio outside selection, Silence the selected audio, Fit selection in window, Fit project in window.

Save the data;

Export the file in some format for later use – WAV, MP3, or OGG. If you are going to export in MP3 format you must install the “libmp3lame” library. Your project can also be saved if you plan to make changes to the audio before final exporting. See the “AudacityLameMac.txt” file for more info.

Divide up a long recording into multiple files or CD tracks;

Follow these steps to create a separate file for each song or segment of a long recording. This is particularly useful if you are creating a CD, since each file will appear as a separate track on the CD.

1. Click to place the cursor at the start of the first song.
2. Choose “Add Label at Selection” from the Project menu. If you wish, you can type the name of the song.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each song.
4. When you are finished, choose “**Export Multiple**” from the **File** menu. When you click the “**Export Multiple**” button, Audacity will save each song as a separate file, using the format and location you choose.

NOTE; This labeling feature described should not be used if you already have more than one audio track in the Audacity screen (for example, one audio track for each side of an LP or cassette). If you have recorded your LP or cassette tracks into more than one Audacity track, you can join them into one track thus:

1. Select the second track by clicking in its Track Panel (where the mute/solo buttons are).
2. Choose **Cut** from the **Edit** menu.
3. Place the cursor in the white space after the end of the audio in the first track.
4. Choose **Paste** from the **Edit** menu.
5. Close the second track by clicking the **[X]** top left of its Track Panel.

Simply repeat the process for any additional tracks you have open.

** If you are using a 1.3.x Beta version of Audacity, instead of step 3, click anywhere in the first track then press **END** on your keyboard, then steps 4 and 5.

Adding Labels:

Labels not only mark a split point, but also allow you to name the individual snippets so they correspond to each LP or cassette track. These names can be used as file names when you finally export the files. The labels appear in a new Label Track underneath the audio track as you can see in the example below. This happened to be a mono recording but the labels are exactly the same if you have a stereo recording.

To add labels to mark the split points between the LP or cassette tracks, do this:

1. Click in the recorded audio track at the start of each LP or cassette track, starting at the point where the first track starts.
2. Click **Project > Add Label at Selection** (or its hotkey, **CTRL + B**)
3. Optionally, start typing the name of the song immediately after **Add Label at Selection** (notice that what you are typing should now appear in the label to the right of the flag, in the Label Track). You can skip typing in the labels if you prefer, and instead choose a numeric sequence when you come to the **“Export Multiple”** command.
4. Click at the start of the second track (this confirms any typing you made in the label), **Project > Add label at Selection** again, type the second label and so on.

NOTE: *If you find you cannot type in the label at any stage, click in it to give it focus, then type.*

If you make a typing error, press **Backspace**. If you get the label in the wrong place and want to delete it, click on it and press **Backspace** until you have deleted all of the characters in the label, then press **Enter**. In **1.3.3 Beta**, pressing **Backspace** after the last character is deleted automatically deletes the label. To delete multiple labels, select an area in the Label Track containing all the label flags you wish to delete, and choose Silence or Delete from the Edit Menu. If you want to remove the Label Track and start over again, click the **[X]** far left of the Label Track to close it.

Note that if you cut or delete a section of the recording *after* you have placed labels, this will leave the labels in the wrong place. To solve this, select the area to cut or delete in **both** the audio track **and** the Label Track.

Each name you type in the label must be different. You must **avoid using system-prohibited characters in the labels**. These will cause a "cannot export audio to..." or "unable to open target file for writing" error, or in the case of colon ":" will cause the exported file to be invalid. Here are examples of common system-prohibited characters:

\ / : * ? " < >

All the above characters will fail on Windows. "/", "\", and ":" will fail on Macs.

A detailed, illustrated tutorial explaining this process is available on the **[Splitting recordings into separate tracks](#)** page on the Audacity WIKI.

If you are serious about using Audacity then visit the WIKI for additional explanations for using the functions and features within this great little application.

Other applications that do the same job **but cost money** are;

WireTap Pro from; www.ambrosiaSW.com

Golden Records from; www.nch.com.au/golden/index_b.html