

Capture Audio from Cassette Tape using Audacity 1.2.6

Audio capture takes place in “real time.” In other words, if you want to capture 30 minutes of audio tape, it will take 30 minutes to capture it. You cannot capture in “fast-forward.” There is no way to “rip” from an audio cassette tape or any other analog source.



Part One: Set-up

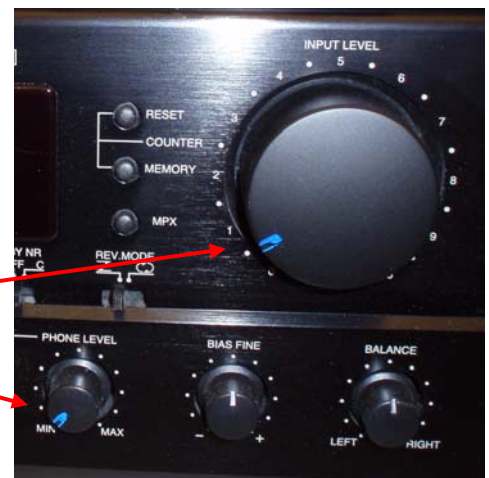
The Amplifier:

1. Make sure the Tone & Balance knobs are set to the center (straight up.)
2. Make sure the selector knob is set to CD / TAPE (straight up.)
3. Make sure the Volume knob is set to something near MIN.
4. Plug your headphones into the amplifier jack marked PHONES.
5. Turn on the amplifier.



The Cassette Player:

1. Make sure the knobs are set near MIN or 1.
 - DENON model: Input Level and Phone Level
 - SONY model: (none)
2. Turn on the audio cassette tape player.
3. Insert your tape into the audio cassette tape player. SONY model: use the left tape slot only.
4. Rewind or fast forward your tape to the point where you want to start recording. In order to give yourself time to click and press all the buttons necessary, you may want to give yourself a little bit of leader tape ahead of what you want to record. Any of this extra audio can be edited out later.



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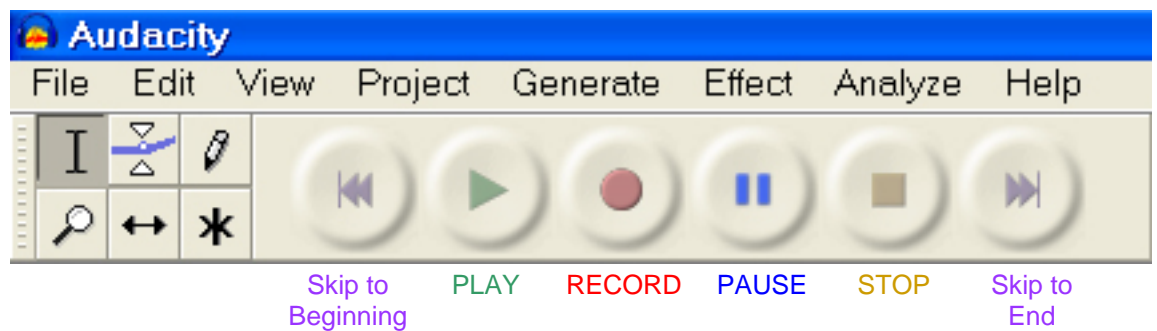
The Computer:

1. On the front of the computer, plug the cable marked AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE PLAYER into the microphone jack.
2. On the computer's desktop, double-click the folder "Audio Editing."
3. Double-click "Audacity."



Part Two: Recording

The controls in Audacity's toolbar:

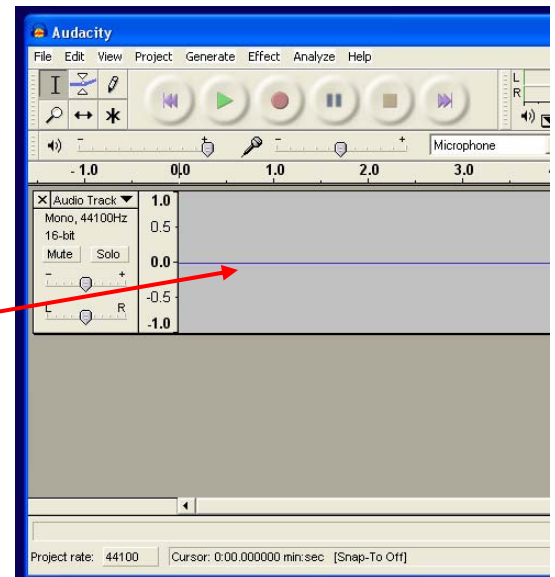


To Record:

1. Click the red RECORD button in Audacity.
2. Press PLAY on the tape player.

You will be able to hear your cassette through the headphones and see* the progress of your recording in Audacity.

*If you are seeing a straight blue line and hearing audio through the headphones, this means your audio is not being recorded. Please re-check the set-up procedures and try again, then ask staff for assistance if necessary.



When you have reached the end of your track or the end of the tape:

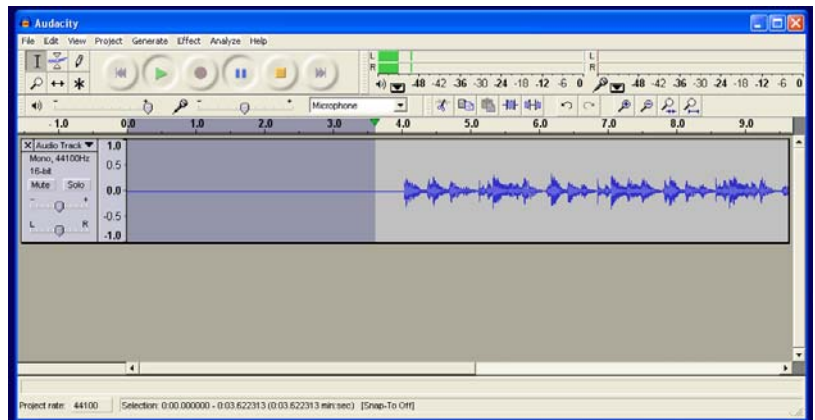
1. Click the STOP button in Audacity.
2. Press STOP on the tape player.

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Part Three: Editing

To remove silence (the straight blue line) at the beginning of your audio track:

1. Click the purple SKIP TO BEGINNING button.
2. Click the green PLAY button.
3. When you come to the end of your unwanted passage (the silence), click PAUSE. Audacity will mark this point with a small green triangle.
4. Highlight the area between the beginning of your track and the green triangle:
 - Click & hold the left mouse button at the beginning of your track.
 - Drag the mouse to the right, to the green triangle.
 - The gray-ish blue highlighted area is the selection you will be deleting.
4. To check your selection: Click PLAY. Audacity will only play the highlighted area. If you are unsatisfied with your selection, clicking in the highlighted area will un-highlight it, so you can try again.
5. To delete your selection (the highlighted area): Press the DELETE key on the keyboard.



This technique can be used for removing unwanted audio from anywhere in your recording. Unfortunately, unless you are already experienced in editing audio, this process can be time consuming and can result in unwanted clicks and pops and loss of audio quality. If you want to remove portions of your audio cassette, the best technique is to not record them in the first place. The simplest way to do this is to split up your audio into separate tracks by recording them separately.

Splitting tracks:

The easiest technique to split a tape into separate tracks is to record each individual part of your tape separately. Audacity allows you to bring up as many separate windows of the program as your computer can handle. Each independent window can then be used to record a different part of your tape. To bring up extra Audacity windows select NEW from the FILE menu. Each track can then be recorded and saved separately and later burned to the same CD. A *Word of Warning*: Don't get too crazy with opening multiple windows, because with multiple windows comes slower computer performance and a better chance of crashing the computer.

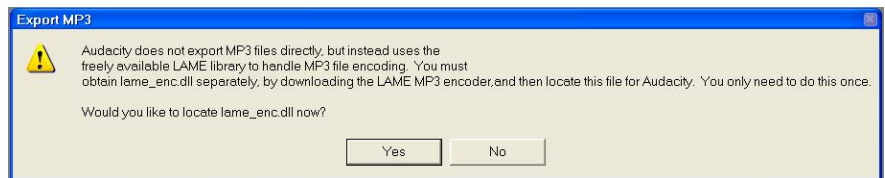
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Part Four: Saving your tracks as MP3 or Audio CD

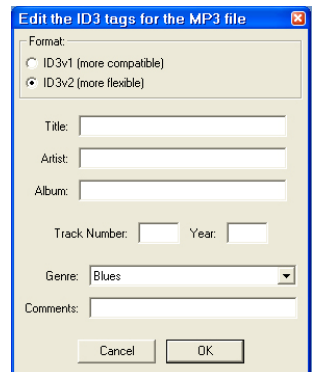
Part Four A:

To save for iPod or other MP3 player

1. Click FILE.
2. Click EXPORT AS MP3.
3. Type a name for your file.
4. Save it to My Music.
5. If this message pops up:
 - Click YES
 - Look in My Music for the folder "LAME MP3." **If it's not there, see the section below in the red box.**
 - Double-click on the folder to go inside.
 - Double-click on the file "lame_enc.dll."



6. You will see a pop-up giving you the option of tagging your MP3. Tags simply add additional information to your track (such as title, artist, genre, etc.) which is read and displayed by media players such as Real Audio or iTunes. Tags will not affect the quality of your MP3. You can leave this section blank if you wish.



7. Click OK.

If Part Four, Step 5 does not work:

Download and install LAME MP3:

1. In My Documents \ My Music, create a folder called "LAME MP3."
2. Go to <http://lame.buanzo.com.ar/>
3. Click "For Audacity on Windows: libmp3lame-win-3.97.zip."
4. Save to the "LAME MP3" folder.
5. Double-click the file to unzip it. You are now ready to return step 5 above.

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Part Four B:

To save for audio CD

1. Click FILE.
2. Click EXPORT AS WAV.
3. Type a name for your file.
4. Save it to My Music.
5. Burn an AUDIO CD (instructions below.)

Burn an Audio CD

1. Open Roxio:

- Double-click the desktop icon “Burn CDs & DVDs.”
- Click “Audio.”
- Click “Audio CD for Car or Home CD Player.”



2. To add songs to the CD:

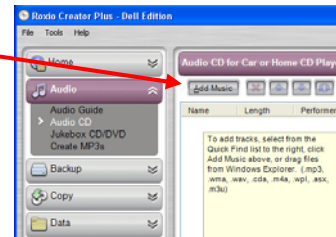
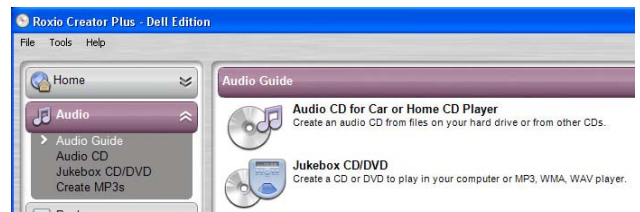
- Click “Add Music.”

OR

- Open the My Music window
 - “Drag & drop” the files into the Roxio window

OR

- Use “copy” and “paste” to put the files into the Roxio window



You can use shift, ctrl, or right-click for selecting multiple files.

You may add any type of audio file into your new CD. Don't worry if you have an audio CD (.cda files), computer or iPod music (.mp3, .aac, .wma) — they'll all be converted to a single format on the new CD (.cda format.)

3. You may re-arrange the order of the songs: click on a song to highlight it, then use the up & down arrows.

4. When you have added all the songs you want, and have them in the desired order:

- Click the big red button in the lower right corner to burn your CD.

