

Audacity: Download, Configure, Record, and Export MP3 Files

Audacity® is free, open source software for recording and editing sounds. It is available for Mac OS X, Microsoft Windows, GNU/Linux, and other operating systems



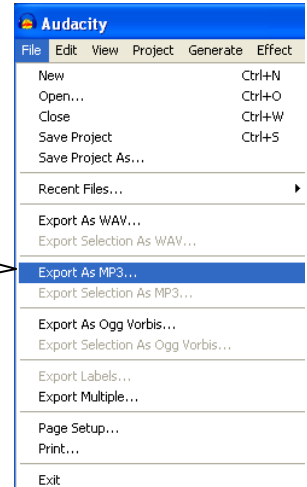
Download Audacity from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> and install it on your computer. (If you follow all the defaults, it will be in C:\Program Files\Audacity)

You need another download—an MP3 encoder (called, infelicitously, LAME)—so you can export your Audacity sound files as MP3 files. Installation Instructions are at http://audacityteam.org/wiki/index.php?title=Lame_Installation. Or you can just download LAME from <http://lame.buanzo.com.ar/> and follow the instructions here.

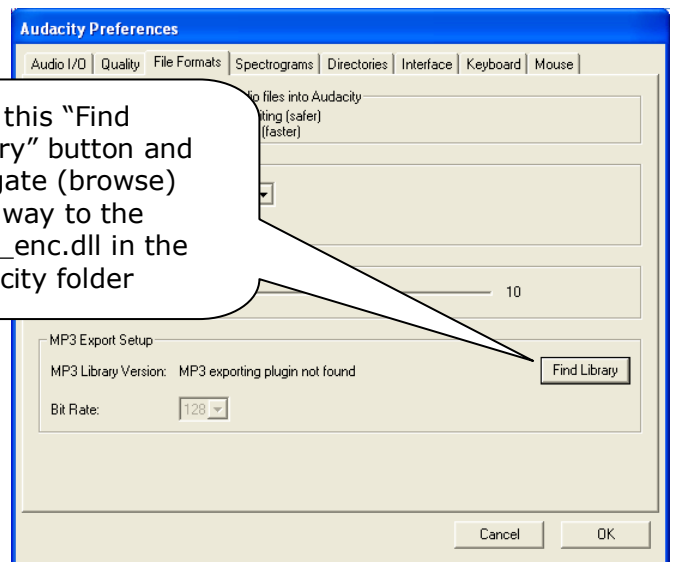
You don't install LAME; all you have to do is

1. Download the LAME .zip file to your Desktop, right-click and pick "Extract All Files" and if it doesn't extract itself automatically and
2. put the LAME folder into the Audacity folder inside Program Files on your hard drive (open My Computer, then C, then look for Program Files, and then Audacity).
3. Start Audacity and tell Audacity where LAME is.
Within Audacity, you'll need to
 - go to Edit > Preferences; then
 - click on the File Formats tab; then
 - click on the "Find Library" button; then
 - click on the Yes button: you would "like to locate lame_enc.dll now"; then
 - browse to My Computer > Local Disk (C:) > Program Files > Audacity > libmp3lame-3.98.2 (or whatever your LAME folder is called) > then double-click on (or Open) the actual lame_enc.dll
 - click OK (Whew!)

After creating (recording) a sound file, narration, or something, you'll want to Export As MP3 so you'll have something that's reasonably good quality and reasonably small size that you can play in a wide variety of programs on a wide variety of computers.



Click this "Find Library" button and navigate (browse) your way to the lame_enc.dll in the Audacity folder



Microphone

You can get a cheap one from the ESD: including shipping, they'll cost between \$5 and \$10, depending on how many you buy.

Configuring Audacity

Make sure your computer's Volume icon is visible in the taskbar in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen

