

Saving a File in Audacity

This tutorial will take you through the different options and formats for saving a sound file in Audacity. When you have the edited sound file ready to save, there are three options under the File menu to choose from.

Option 1: File/Save Project: (Figure 1)

- This option does not create a sound file.
- It creates an Audacity Project File that saves the progress you have made inside of Audacity and allows you to come back later and continue editing a project, without altering any original sound files.
- Audacity Project Files cannot be used in other programs. Use one of the “Export as” commands when you are finished editing the file.

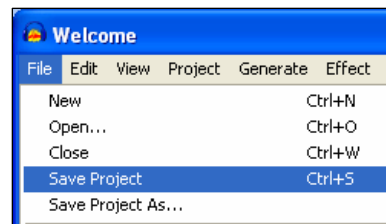


Figure 1

Option 2: File/Export as WAV:

- When you choose Export as WAV from the File Menu, Audacity creates a .WAV sound file of your project which can be played back in almost any type of media player, and is the native file type for burning to a CD that you want to play in a stereo.
- WAV files are uncompressed audio and are larger files than MP3s.
- Choose Export as WAV if you want to burn the file to a CD that is playable in a stereo, or if you do not wish to lose any sound quality.

Option 3: File/Export as MP3: *(Note that you must have the Lame MP3 encoder installed to continue. Follow the “Installation Tutorial” located at <http://elearning.angelo.edu/audacity/index.htm> to install the Lame MP3 Encoder. This only has to be done once.)*

- An MP3 is a compressed audio file that can compress audio by a factor of 10:1 with very little degradation in quality.
- When exporting an MP3, after you click Save, the Edit ID3 Tag window opens. (Figure 2)
- An ID3 tag includes such information as Track Title, Artist Name, and Genre.

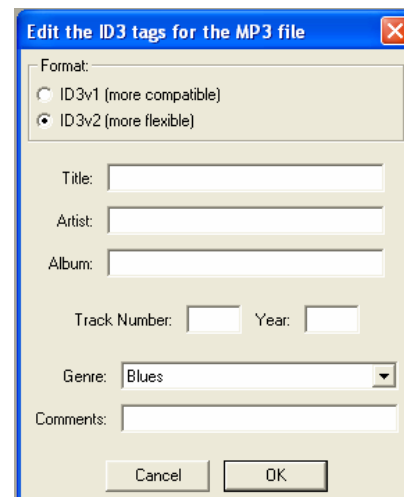


Figure 2

- You can fill out as many of the fields as you want, but none are required to actually make the MP3.

- Notes on bit rates of MP3s:
 - Select Edit, Preferences, File Formats Tab.

Under MP3 Export Setup, you have the option to choose bit rate Audacity uses to create MP3s. (Figure 3)

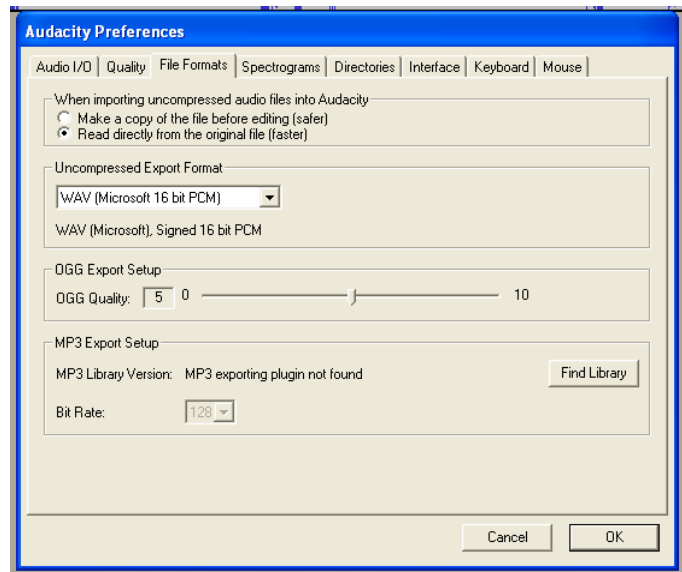


Figure 3

- Remember that lower bit rates create smaller file sizes, but also reduce audio quality.
- For music, you can estimate that 1 minute of a song at a bit rate of 128 will create a 1 megabyte file.
- If you record a narration or lecture, you could choose a bit rate as low as 16, and still create a clear sounding audio file.
- Experiment with different bit rates until you find one that you like.