

“Audacity” Audio Recording Freeware.

For a simple little Freeware program, Audacity seems to have most of the audio recording and editing tools one might need. It has many of the tools used in the more expensive professional Audio editing and recording programs. You can crop the ends of the audio where you started and ended the recording session, and even cut and paste sections of the audio if you want to add or move cuts of audio, and there are many more useful tools.

One example - you can sample a section of noise, then have Audacity remove this noise profile from the entire recording, or any selected portion.

Audacity says it'll record up to 61 hours of audio. This is probably determined by the amount of available RAM and the project recording bit rate.

To be able to save the Audacity project file as a mp3 file (Export file), you will need to get another file called “lame_enc.dll” and place it somewhere in your computer after the program Audacity is installed.

To keep everything in one logical place, I placed this “lame_enc.dll” file in the “C:\Program Files\Audacity” folder. When you first export to a mp3 file, you will be asked to browse to this “lame_enc.dll” file, so that Audacity knows where to find this encoder.

The Audacity program can be downloaded from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

And the mp3 encoder can be downloaded from [lame_enc.dll](#)

You can also Google for ... “Audacity Tutorials” ... for operation info ... (be sure to include the quotes)

If you have trouble with inconsistent volumes of your recordings, or download, another free program called Mp3gain, will normalize the volume of one or more mp3 files - (or a whole folder full). The Mp3gain program can be downloaded from ... <http://mp3gain.sourceforge.net/>

If Audacity has been installed with Ogg Vorbis support then you should see this:

Audacity is great free multitrack audio software, available for all popular platforms including Linux. This is a short tutorial that you can follow on your own machine, which should leave you with a complete music track.

First, download [tracks 1 and 2](#) and [track 3](#) and save them to your hard drive. Then get these files into Audacity one at a time using *Project – Import*:

Audio:

Now the first two tracks have been imported, click the play button (the green triangle in a circle). You should hear drums and bass in the left channel, and keyboard on the right.

Repeat the process to import track 3, which is a stereo guitar track. Your Audacity window should then look like this. Because the first two tracks are really separate mono recordings, let's use the *Split Stereo Track* option on the track label. That's the button with the small black triangle above the Mute and Solo buttons.

Then instead of having each mono track on its own channel, let's put them back in the centre of the stereo image where they belong.

Around thirty-one seconds in to the music, there's a common problem. Because of the latency of computer hardware, the stereo guitar track is running a little behind the other two tracks and so the timing is all wrong. First, let's zoom in to the problem area using the magnifying glass tool.

Click on the move tool (the double-headed horizontal arrow) and drag the guitar track to the left until it sounds right. You may have to play this section a few times to do it by ear, but moving the track about one second earlier should do it.

When you've got lots of tracks, you can use the Name button on the track label to help you remember which is which. It might save you deleting the wrong track later. Save it as an Audacity project.

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