

# Recording Cassette Tapes – Synopsis - Microsoft Media Education

Check Microsoft website for details

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/knowledgecenter>

## Record Music from a Cassette Tape to Your Computer

This synopsis of the Windows Media workshop explains how to connect a cassette tape deck to your computer, record audio from a cassette onto your computer, and then play the recorded music in Windows Media Player.

### What You'll Need!

#### Software:

Plus! Analog Recorder in the [Plus! SuperPack](#)

[Windows Media Player 10](#)

#### Hardware:

Stereo RCA cable (2 RCA connectors and a mini-jack connector)

Cassette tape deck

Sound card (with Line In jack)

## Step 1: Connecting a Tape Deck to Your Computer

The first step in recording music from a cassette tape is to connect a cassette tape deck to your computer.

### To connect a tape deck to your computer

Plug one end of the stereo RCA cable with the red-and-white, male RCA connectors into the red-and-white, female RCA jacks that are labeled **Line (Out)** on the cassette tape deck.

Depending on whether you are using a Y-cable or stereo RCA cable, do one of the following:

If you are using a Y-cable that already has a mini-jack stereo connector on the other end of the cable, go to the next step.

If you are using a stereo RCA cable that has red-and-white, male RCA connectors on both ends of the cable, plug the end not already connected to the female RCA jacks on the cassette tape deck into the female red-and-white RCA jacks of a mini-jack stereo adapter.

Plug the mini-jack stereo adapter into the female **Line In** jack on the sound card of your computer.

## Step 2: Recording Music from a Cassette Tape Deck in Plus! Analog Recorder

After you connect your cassette tape deck to your computer, you are ready to start recording music to your computer by using Plus! Analog Recorder.

### **Detect audio levels**

Start Plus! Analog Recorder, which is installed with Plus! Digital Media Edition or Plus! Super Pack.

On the **Welcome to Plus! Analog Recorder** page, click **Next**.

On the **Adjust your recording level** page, in the **Sound device** list, click the device you want to use. (The sound device is usually the name of the sound card that is installed on your computer.)

In the **Input channel** list, choose **Line In**. This is the jack that the mini-jack connector is plugged into on the sound card that is installed on your computer.

To begin detecting audio levels, press the **Play** button on your cassette tape deck, and then click **Start** in Plus! Analog Recorder. Detecting audio levels helps to make sure that the recording volume is set correctly.

After an acceptable audio level has been detected, click **Next**.

If necessary, on the tape deck, press the **Rewind** button to rewind the tape to the beginning.

### **To record the music from the cassette tape**

On the **Record your music** page, click **Record**, and then press the **Play** button on your tape deck.

For tracks that you don't want to record, click **Pause** to pause the recording, and then click **Record** to continue recording when the tape deck begins to play the next desired track.

Let the music play to the end of the tape, and then click **Stop** in Plus! Analog Recorder.

On your cassette deck, press the **Stop** button to stop playing the tape.

Eject the tape from the cassette deck, and then flip the tape over.

Repeat steps 1-3 to record the music on the other side of the tape.

After recording the second side of the tape, in Plus! Analog Recorder, click **Next**.

### **To enter track information**

On the **Review and name your tracks** page, click the first recorded track named Track 1.

To preview the recorded track, click the **Preview** button.

Do the following:

In the **Name** box, type the name of the track.

In the **Artist** box, type the name of the artist.

In the **Album** box, type the album name.

In the **Genre** box, type the appropriate genre.

For the other recorded tracks, type the name for each individual track.

(The information in the Artist, Album, and Genre boxes stays the same.)

If necessary, do one or more of the following, and then click **Next**.

If you have a short recorded track that does not contain music, click **Delete** to delete the empty track (that usually is just recorded noise).

If the number of recorded tracks differs from the number of tracks listed on the tape, two tracks may have been recorded as one long track (possibly because there was only a short pause between tracks on the cassette tape). To correct this, click the **Preview** button, play the music until the end of the first track, and then click the **Split** button to split the track into two tracks.

#### **To clean the recorded tracks**

Select the **Reduce pops** and **Reduce hiss** check boxes.

This lets you choose special filters to improve the sound of the recorded tracks by removing pops and hisses that sometimes occur when recording from a cassette tape deck. The filters are applied for all of the recorded tracks.

Click **Preview** to play the recorded track with the cleaning filters applied. Click **Next**.

#### **To select the save settings and save tracks as Windows Media Audio (WMA) files**

In the **Save music tracks to this location** area, the location where the recorded music will be saved is listed. By default, the recorded music is saved in the My Music folder.

To change the save location, click **Change**, choose the appropriate folder location, and then click **OK**.

In the **Save settings** area, select or clear the **Protect content (use DRM)** check box. If you select this check box, you will not be able to share your tracks with friends.

On the **Save music at this quality** setting, drag the slider to the appropriate location.

To save the music at a high-quality setting, drag the slider towards the right. However, note that as the quality setting increases, so does the file size of the saved WMA files.

To add the recorded music to a new or existing Windows Media Player playlist, click the **Add tracks to Windows Media Player playlist** drop-down box, and then click an existing playlist or click **New** to add the recorded tracks to a new playlist.

To save the tracks, click **Next**.

The progress of saving the tracks as WMA files appears on the **Saving your tracks** page.

To close Plus! Analog Recorder, click **Finish**.

### **Step 3: Playing the Recorded Music in Windows Media Player 10**

After you have recorded the music from a cassette tape to your computer, you can then play the music on your computer.

#### **To play the recorded music**

Start Windows Media Player 10.

Click **Library**, and then do one of the following:

To play the recorded music by selecting the album title, expand **All Music**, click **Album**, and then double-click the album name for the cassette tape you recorded.

If you added the saved WMA files to a new playlist, expand **My Playlists**, and then double-click the playlist that includes the recorded tracks.

You can now "burn" the playlist or individual tracks to a CD using your CD recorder or you can use the copy to CD from Windows XP.

Microsoft Plus also comes with an audio converter to save your recordings in MP3 format and a CD Label Maker

## **Featured Websites**

### **Recording Audio** (Tapes & Records)

**<http://www.Microsoft.com>**

**Plus – Analog Recorder**

**Mediaplayer**

**Recording Audio**

**[Acoustica.com](http://Acoustica.com) – Spin it Again**

**[Foxshareware.com](http://Foxshareware.com)**

**[Audacity.com](http://Audacity.com)**

**[Freecorder.com](http://Freecorder.com)**

**[Audio-recorders.net](http://Audio-recorders.net)**

**[Pdmarq.com](http://Pdmarq.com)**

**[Deepcom.com](http://Deepcom.com)**

### **Recording Video**

**[Microsoft.com](http://Microsoft.com) WinXP "Moviemaker"**

**[ADStech.com](http://ADStech.com)**

**[Pinnaclesys.com](http://Pinnaclesys.com) Dazzle Pinnacle**