

Converting MP3 files by Virginia Mauldin

I do not use media player if I can avoid it and I've successfully done that mostly. I use iTUNES but I think it would be the same in either, though iTUNES is all around much easier to deal with. In iTUNES if I have a song in AAC and need it in MP3 (now I just set the preferences to import everything in MP3 for convenience) I right click on the song in the Library. One of the choices is to convert to MP3. That function doesn't seem to be in that form in MP.

One does not "convert" anything, but make another copy in MP3 so I then have both copies in differing formats. I am absolutely certain that you can convert songs within Media Player to MP3. In addition you can set your preferences to bring songs in in MP3. Though MP3 is technically an inferior format, your ear probably cannot tell the difference (human ears are not too good) everything individuals (not commercial users) use has to take that format for marketing purposes since it predated most current uses.

If you right click on Library in MP and choose "other options" then "Rip" you can set all your songs to be imported in mp3 or whatever other format you wish that it supports (not AAC, the industry standard). Then all future imports into Media Player will be in MP3 but you'll still have the issue of finding the physical file. See below.

If you highlight a song and then go to Help at the top of Media Player and click on the Search tab one of the choices showing in the drop down menu is most likely "convert to mp3". If not you can put it in the search window and search for the procedure. I have tried to do it on my machine, but it won't connect to the web page to download the getting started guide. However, once you can get it to display for you I assure you it is easy.

However, both copies, both WMA and MP3, will be together wherever they are stored in your MyMusic folder. I've so far been unable to find the actual music files on my machine (I have a few in there) but no doubt if you put a song name in the general Search on the Start Menu you can discover the location. In the preferences on Media Player it says the songs are in MyMusic in MyDocuments until that location is changed.

In iTunes, the song files are in the iTUNES library listed in folders of the artist, then the album, then the individual song files. I'm sure the same is available in Media Player but Microsoft just doesn't make things obvious. If you want to use a song in a program like Movie Maker or PowerPoint, you would need to locate the actual file.

If you just want to burn a MP3 CD, then you drag the songs into a playlist and then burn it, setting the preferences to Mp3 then and the software will convert them as it goes. There used to be a system playlist for just that purpose, but it appears that Microsoft has "again made it easier by making it harder" and eliminated that, at least on my MP11.

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