

Unit: Audacity

Editing sound files using Audacity

Overview/Description:

Audacity is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder. It is cross platform so it works on Linux Mac and Windows. Audacity can be used to:

- Record live audio.
- Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs.
- Edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, WAV or AIFF sound files.
- Cut, copy, splice or mix sounds together.
- Change the speed or pitch of a recording.

Target Audience:

People who want to learn how to download and use Audacity to edit or record sound files.

Prerequisites:

- Basic understanding of computers.
Basic photography skills.

Completion of the following units within this course:

- Project Administration.
- Photography Preparation.

Requirements

As this unit covers importing MP3 files into Audacity, it is important to have some MP3 files stored in a folder on your computer. Be careful not to breach copyright regulations. Here are two links that can be used to download royalty free music –

<http://derekaudette.ottawaarts.com/music.php>

<http://www.flashkit.com/loops/>

LAME MP3 encoder is needed to enable Audacity to export MP3 files; if this is not installed then files can only be exported as WAV files which are much larger in size. The process for downloading LAME MP3 encoder is covered in lesson three.

When recoding using Audacity ensure that your microphone is plugged in and is set up according to manufacture's instructions.

Resources

Audacity can be downloaded from the following site –

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

The Audacity User's Manual can be downloaded from the following site –

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/documentation>

The LAME MP3 encoder can be downloaded from the following site under the heading Optional Downloads –

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/windows>

Recall

For this unit it is important to have your file structure set up as outlined in the assignment covered in the unit *Project Administration lesson 3*.

Requirements:

File Structure needed for this unit –

- Audacity
 - Subfolder1 (MP3 files will be stored here)
 - Subfolder2 (Customised audio files will be stored here)
 - Subfolder3 (Downloaded software such as LAME will be stored here)

Rename Subfolder1, Subfolder2 and Subfolder3 to "**MP3files**", "**customised_audio**", and "**Downloaded_Software**".

Learning Objectives

After completing this unit you should be able to:

- Download Audacity from the Web.
- Install Audacity.
- Download the LAME MP3 encoder.
- Install LAME MP3 encoder.
- Open Audacity.
- Identify the main features of Audacity.
- Import an MP3 file into Audacity.
- Remove unwanted segments from an MP3 track with the Trim Tool.
- Remove unwanted segments from an MP3 track with the Cut Tool.
- Modify an MP3 track so that it becomes soft background music.
- Record with Audacity.
- Export your customized MP3 file in Audacity.

This unit covers the following lessons:

Lesson 1 How to download Audacity from the Web.

Lesson 2 How to install Audacity.

Lesson 3 How to download the LAME MP3 encoder.

Lesson 4 How to install LAME MP3 encoder.

Lesson 5 How to open Audacity.

Lesson 6 Identifying the main features of Audacity.

Lesson 7 How to import an MP3 file into Audacity.

Lesson 8 How to remove unwanted segments from an MP3 track with the Trim Tool.

Lesson 9 How to remove unwanted segments from an MP3 track with the Cut Tool.

Lesson 10 How to modify an MP3 track so that it becomes soft background music.

Lesson 11 How to record with Audacity.

Lesson 12 How to export your customized MP3 file in Audacity.

Audacity Final Assessment Exercise.

Audacity Review.

Audacity Quiz.

Audacity Credits

Audacity F.A.Q.