

6. Identifying the main features of Audacity.

At the end of this lesson you will be able to identify the main components making up the workspace of Audacity by using the mouse to scroll over the image to display the name of each component within the workspace.

Audacity Interface

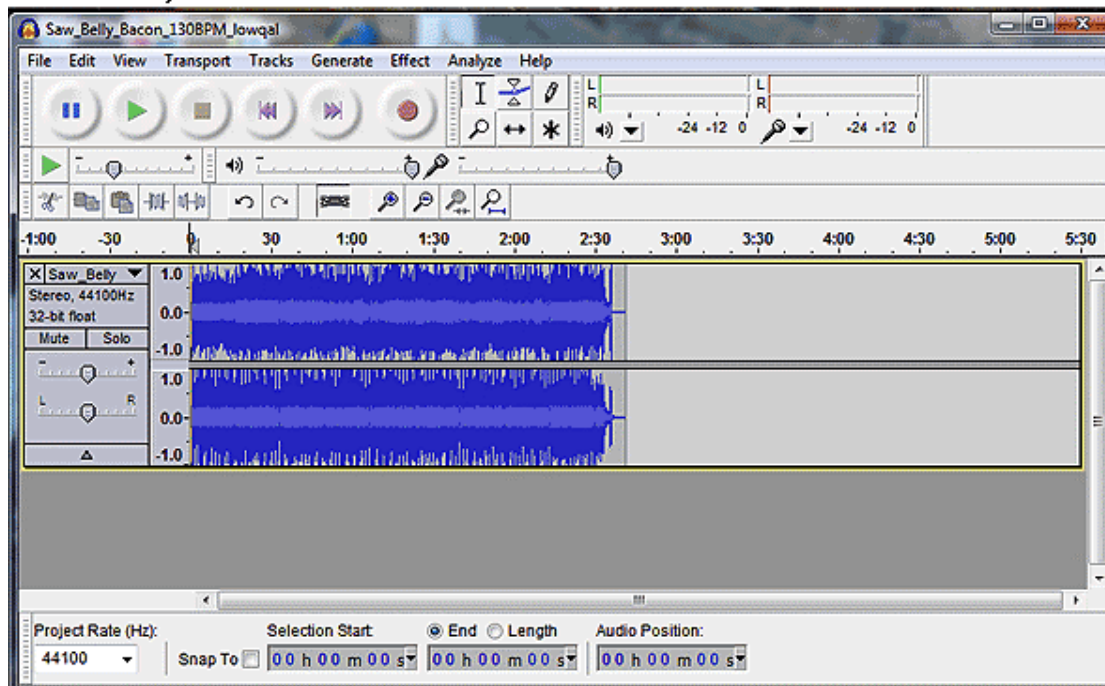
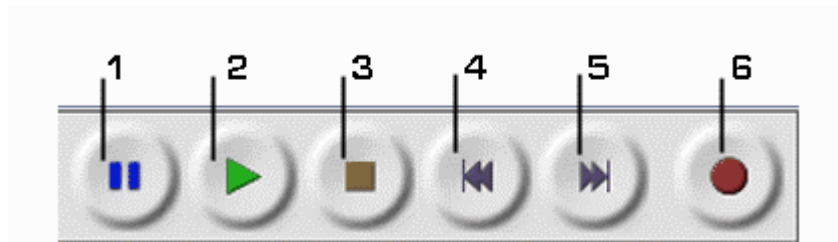


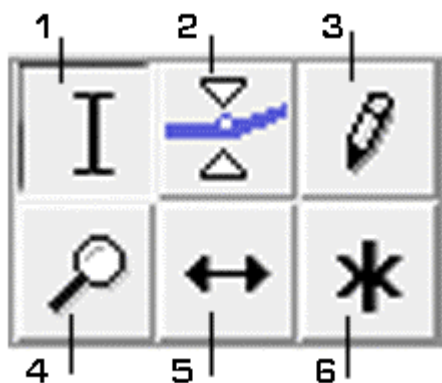
Figure 6.1 Audacity Interface

Main Toolbar – Playback controls



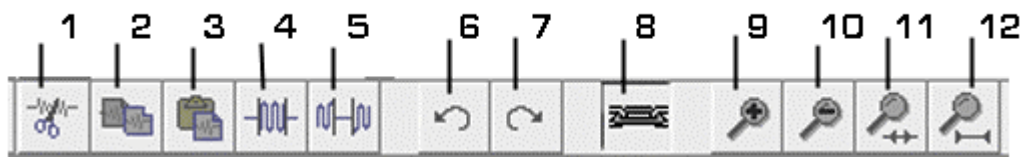
1. Pause – to pause the playback or recording of material.
2. Play – to listen to the audio in your project.
3. Stop – to stop the playback or recording of material.
4. Cursor to Start – places the cursor at the start of the project.
5. Cursor to Stop – places the cursor at the end of the project.
6. Record – records new material from your computer.

Main Toolbar – Tools



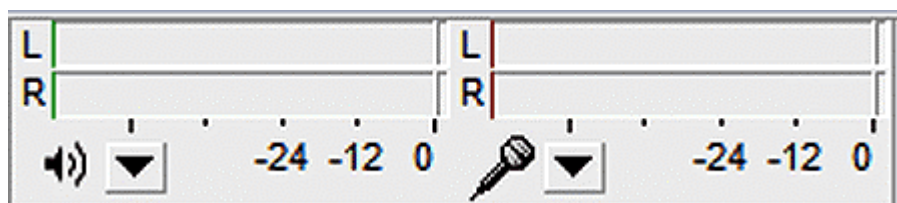
1. Selection Tool – this is the main tool used to select audio.
2. Envelope Tool – this gives you detailed control over how tracks fade in and out, right in the main track window.
3. Draw Tool – enables the user to draw in to the actual waveforms.
4. Zoom Tool – allows you to zoom in or out of a specific part of the audio.
5. Time Shift Tool – allows you to change the relative positioning of tracks relative to one another in time.
6. Multi-Tool Mode – allows you to access all five tools on this toolbar at once.

Main Toolbar - Edit Tools



1. Cut – removes the selected audio data and places it on the clipboard.
2. Copy – copies the selected audio data to the clipboard without removing it from the project.
3. Paste – inserts whatever is on the clipboard at the position of the selection cursor in the project, replacing whatever audio data is currently selected, if any.
4. Trim – deletes everything but the selection.
5. Silence – erases the audio data currently selected, replacing it with silence instead of removing it completely.
6. Undo – this will undo the last editing operation you carried out.
7. Redo – this will redo any editing operations that were just undone.
8. Link Tracks.
9. Zoom In.
10. Zoom Out.
11. Fit Selection.
12. Fit Project.

Meter Toolbar



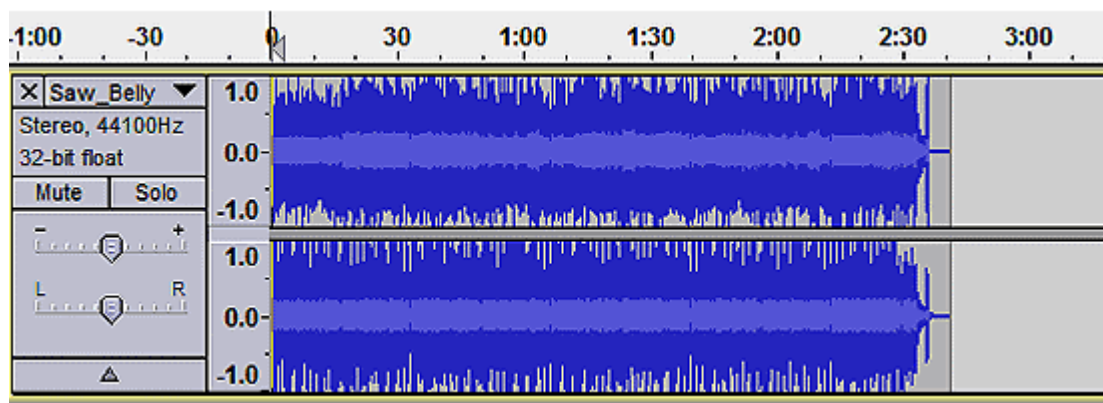
Shows the input and output levels. You will use the input levels to test whether you are getting enough input through your mic or recording device.

Mixer Toolbar



1. The slider near the small microphone icon controls the input of your Soundcard; adjust this to increase the level of input on your microphone.
2. The slider near the small speaker icon will control the output of your Soundcard affecting the overall volume of your project.

Track window



A stereo track is shown in the track window. A stereo track contains two wave forms (one for the left and one for the right). Along the top of the track window is a timeline in seconds, or even fractions of a second.

In the next lesson we will import an MP3 file into Audacity.