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How-to Guide

Recording your soundtrack

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You'll need:

1. Music notation software such as Sibelius, or
2. Sound editing software such as Audacity (free – instructions for downloading included).
3. A digital recorder, such as a Zoom H4 or iRiver, or
4. Your computer's built-in microphone or a microphone plugged into the mic input on your computer.



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Recording Your Soundtrack

Once you have written your music there are two easy ways to make a recording of your soundtrack:

- A. Use your music notation software to make a MIDI recording.
- B. Record live instruments playing your music.

A. Using your music notation software

Most music notation programmes allow you to hear your music using MIDI. For example on Sibelius, this can be extracted as an audio file to be burned onto disc. Refer to your individual programme instructions to find out how to do this.

B. Recording live instruments

Recording your soundtrack requires a sound editing programme. There are many software programmes available, both free and for purchase, and after some research we recommend Audacity. Audacity is free to download, very easy to use and will fulfil all your needs for recording a simple soundtrack. There are comprehensive instructions on the Audacity website (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/>); here are a few simple steps to help you on your way:

1. Download & install Audacity
2. Record your soundtrack
3. Edit your soundtrack
4. Export your soundtrack

1. Download & install Audacity

Audacity can be downloaded from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>. Follow the instructions on the website for installation.

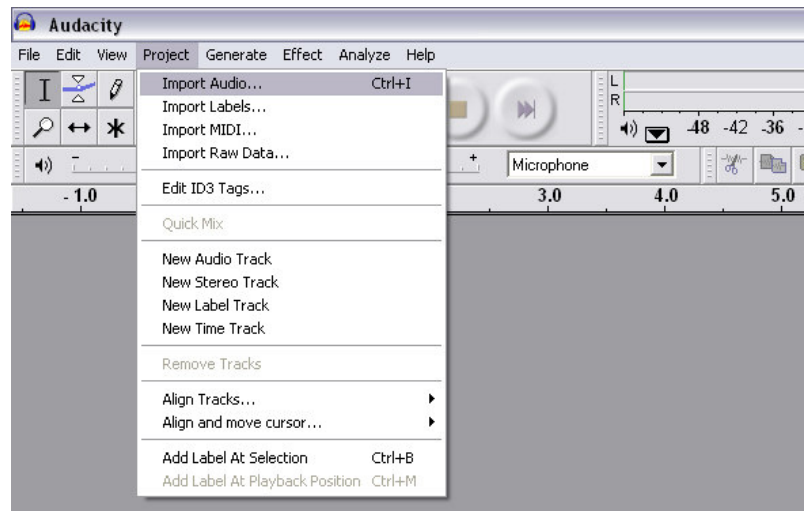
2. Record your soundtrack

There are two options for how to record your soundtrack:

- Record your soundtrack with a digital recorder, such as a Zoom H4 or iRiver.
- Record it directly into Audacity using your computer's built-in microphone or plug in a microphone to the mic input on your computer.

Recording soundtrack using a digital recorder

- Record your audio with your digital recorder.
- Transfer your files over to your computer via USB or FireWire. Your specific recorder instructions should detail how to do this.
- Double-click on the Audacity icon to open the programme.
- On the menu, click on PROJECT then IMPORT AUDIO.
- Find your recorded sounds using the BROWSE button.
- Choose a sound file to import and press OK.



Recording a soundtrack using a microphone

- Double-click on the Audacity icon to open the programme.
- Locate your built-in microphone or plug in an external microphone.
- Click on the record button to begin recording.
- Click on the stop button to stop recording.

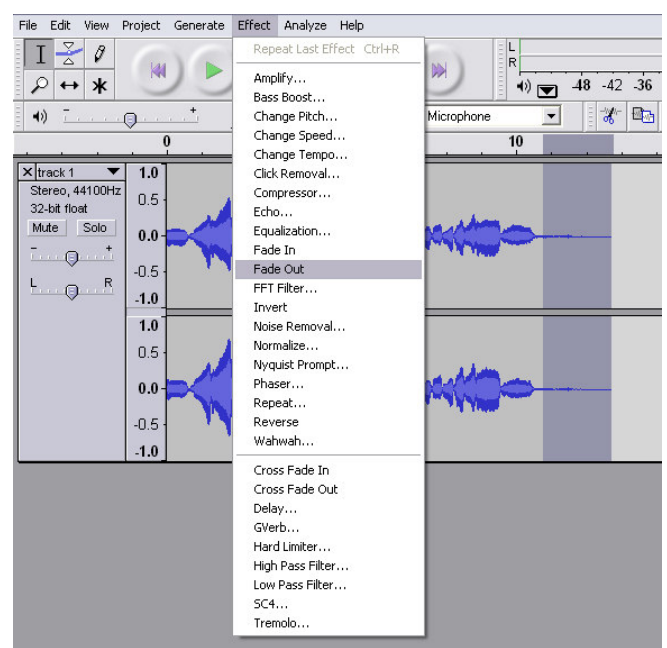


3. Editing your soundtrack

Audacity includes many effects that you can apply to any sound file, including; fade in, fade out, echo, change pitch, change speed and many more...

Audacity Effects

- To apply any effect, select part or all of the tracks you want to modify.
- Select the effect from the EFFECTS menu.
- The Audacity Help Menu has more details on each individual effect.
- If the effect applied is not desirable upon listening press the UNDO icon in the toolbar.



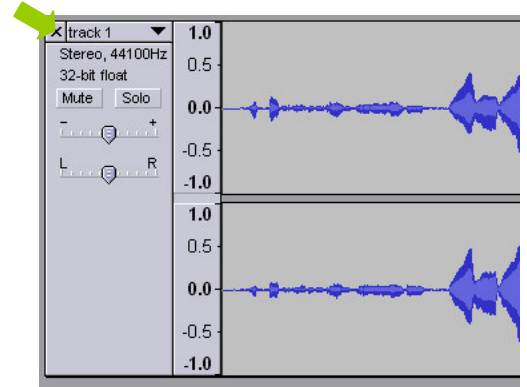
Move a sound file

- Use the timeshift tool to move a sound file around.



Deleting files

- To delete a sound file simply click on the X on the left of the file. This will delete the file from your Audacity session but not from its original folder.



4. Export your soundtrack

Once you have finished your soundtrack you will need to export the file in order to add it to the animation:

- Click on FILE, then EXPORT AS WAV...
- Choose a location to save it.
- This is now ready to be added to the animation.

