

MP3 Tags & Playlists

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Why MP3?

- * Compressed audio means smaller file sizes (up to 10 times smaller than an Audio CD).
- * Most people can't tell the difference between Audio CD quality and "High" quality MP3
- * Many CD, DVD and Network Media Players can now play MP3's
- * MP3 files contain a "TAG" section which can hold details of the Song, Artist and Album for display on the player.
- * You can buy and download MP3 tracks from many sources

“Free” CD Ripping Programs

- * Winamp - will rip to WAV format but wants \$19.95 US for MP3
- * Exact Audio Copy - rated the best free CD Ripper in many surveys but does not include MP3 natively. Must “send” to an external MP3 encoder (LAME) which adds to ripping time (also Binary LAME encoder difficult to find).
- * CDex - is free AND includes LAME MP3 encoder but needs your email i.d. to log in to CDDDB database to retrieve MP3 “TAG” info.
- * ITUNES - is free and can rip to MP3’s (make sure you change “Import Settings” on CD Rip screen).

What about LP's and Tapes?

- * Must convert Analog to Digital using input device.
- * Cheapest - run Red and White audio out leads in to the "Line in" on your PC. Use AUDACITY to capture to WAV format and then export to MP3 (must download FFMPEG and LAME plug-ins).
- * A "Video Grabber" can be used to just capture audio (usually to WAV) but a more Audio Specific grabber may include an MP3 converter.
- * A "Stand Alone" Audio Capture device (such as a Zoom H1) eliminates any background noise introduced by the Computer's electronics and captures to MP3.

How to split large files?

- * Use Audacity to split larger "Capture" files into more meaningfully named files.
- * Use Goldwave (as above)
- * Use "Slice" Audio Splitter (Free).
- * Any others (MP3 Direct Cut)?

How to add “TAG” info.?

- * Free TAG editing programs
 - * Mp3tag
 - * TigoTago
 - * Simple MP3 Tag Editor
 - * Tagscanner (my favourite)

Playlists

- * Media Servers and Players use playlists to put your “favourites” into an easily playable selection.
- * DLNA devices can use these playlists to play back on your TV, Home Theatre or other device (BUT not all playlists may be recognised).
- * Playlists can be “Burned” to MP3 CD’s
- * Playlists (*.M3U) can be edited using simple text editors. (Useful for playing across a network using “relative” addressing)