

Installing Audacity and LAME

When you utilize Audacity, you will need to download both the Audacity .exe and the Lame add-on. The reason for downloading Lame is that Audacity, while it is an excellent sound editing program, does not have the ability to create MP3 files on its own. Rather, it creates WAV files.

Why use MP3 files instead of WAV files?

The advantage of MP3 files—as opposed to WAV files—is that they are not as large as other audio file formats, which make them easier to transport or upload to your online course. They are also the primary file format for Audio Podcasting, so if students are listening to a Podcast, it will have to be in MP3 format. The free Lame encoder provides Audacity with the ability to create MP3 files.

How to Install Audacity and the LAME MP3 file encoder add-on:

Download Audacity and LAME Files to the Computer Desktop

1. Download Audacity “for Windows 98/ME/2000/XP/Vista” from:

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

Filename: Audacity 1.2.6 installer (or newer)

2. Download LAME “For Audacity on Windows” from:

<http://lame.buanzo.com.ar/>

Filename: libmp3lame-win-3.97.zip (or newer)

Install Audacity from the Desktop

1. Double click on the Audacity 1.2.6 installer.
2. Click Run - on the “Open File- Security Warning” prompt.
3. Click Next - on the “Setup – Audacity” window.
4. Check the radio button next to “I Accept the License Agreement” - then click the Next button in the lower right-hand corner to continue.
5. Click Next - on the “Information window”.
6. Pick Next - to accept “the default installation location”.
7. The “default desktop icon creation and Audacity project file association should be checked” - then Pick Next.
8. Pick Install.
9. When the installation is complete –“Uncheck the Launch Audacity checkbox and pick Finish”.

The Audacity installation is finished – now it's time to install LAME.

Install LAME from the Desktop

1. Double click on the libmp3LAME-win-3.97.zip file.
2. WinZip or zip file extractor will open - Click Extract
3. Extract the contents to - - C:\
4. The LAME_enc.dll will be extracted into a newly created folder named C:\libmp3LAME-3.97

LAME is installed and ready to be connected to Audacity

Configure Audacity to use the LAME MP3 encoder

1. Double click on the Audacity desktop icon, to Open Audacity.
2. Locate and click on the Audacity Edit Menu Option.
3. Pick the Preferences option at the bottom of the Edit Menu.
4. Locate and Click on the File Formats menu tab on the Preferences window.
5. Locate the section header MP3 Export Setup on the File Formats page and Click the Find Library button.
6. An explanation on why you would want to use LAME is displayed. Pick the Yes button.
7. The Where is LAME_enc.dll window opens – browse your computer to the folder C:\libmp3LAME-3.97 and click on LAME_enc.dll. Then pick the Open Button.
8. The MP3 Library Version should display LAME v3.97 (or newer) Click OK to close the window.

Audacity is configured to use LAME to export files in the MP3 audio format