# Audacity

Audacity provides you with a full set of tools that you can use to edit audio files and add effects through a clear and accessible interface. Users of all experience levels will benefit from this app's intuitive interface and nice list of features.

## Pros

Excellent resources: Despite the clarity of the interface, it can take some time to learn your way around this program. Fortunately, the app comes with links to a large collection of different types of resources to help you learn how to use all of its features. There is a Quick Help Guide, a full Manual, a Wiki, and user Forums where you can ask questions and get feedback from other users. All online resources for this app are searchable as well, so you can find what you're looking for fast.

Lots of effects: The list of effects you can use on your audio files through this program is long and comprehensive. It includes items like Amplify, Auto Duck, Compressor, Hard Limiter, Leveler, and many more. You can also record your own voice directly through the app to add into an existing recording.

## Cons

Additional downloads: You can import and export files in multiple formats through this app. But in order to access the full range of file format options, you have to download and install several additional programs.

## Bottom Line

Audacity is a versatile and comprehensive audio editing program. It runs smoothly, and the number of Help resources it comes with makes it a good choice for users of all experience levels. It is also completely free to download and use.

## Publisher's Description: From Audacity Developer Team:

Audacity is an open source, cross-platform audio editor and recorder. Audacity can record and play sounds and import and export WAV, AIFF, MP3, and OGG files. Edit your sounds using cut, copy, and paste features (with unlimited undo functionality), mix tracks, or apply effects to your recordings. Audacity also has a built-in amplitude-envelope editor, a customizable spectrogram mode, and a frequency-analysis window for audio-analysis applications.

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### Audacity 2.0.6 Manual

**Help Resources**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) ⊕ - *most common questions are answered in the FAQ*

■ Search the *Wiki* for extra tips and tutorials ■ Visit the *Forum* for technical help ■ Using Help Resources

### Using Audacity

**Quick Help**

■ Getting Started - Recording, Importing, Editing, Exporting...

**Understanding Audacity**

- Foundations
  - ■ Managing Audacity Projects - Audacity's internal workspace
  - ■ Audacity Setup and Configuration
  - ■ Digital Audio Fundamentals
  - ■ Audio Tracks and The Waveform Display
  - ■ Label Tracks
  - ■ Playing and Recording
  - ■ Importing audio and Exporting audio files - For use in other programs
  - ■ Navigation Tips, Playback Tips and Audio Alignment Tips
- Editing
  - ■ Selecting audio
  - ■ Clips - individual sections within an audio track
  - ■ Splitting and Joining Stereo Tracks
  - ■ Sync-Locked Track Groups
  - ■ Zooming
  - ■ Effects, Generators and Analyzers
  - ■ Mixing Audio Tracks
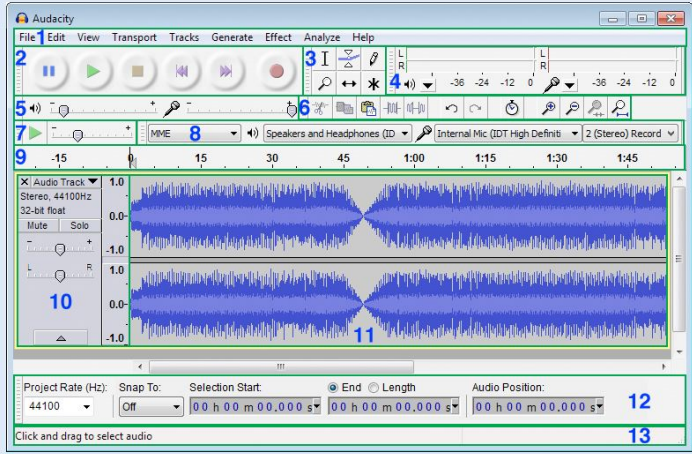  - ■ Undo, Redo and History

**Tutorials**

- ■ Editing an Audio File - Import the file, edit and export it
- ■ Your First Recording - Record microphone, guitar, keyboard
- ■ Mixing Voice with Background Music - For podcasts
- ■ Recording Multi-track Overdubs - Record over other tracks
- ■ Copying tapes, LPs and other media to CD or computer
- ■ Recording streaming audio playing on the computer
- ■ Splitting a recording into separate tracks
- ■ Vocal Removal and Isolation
- ■ Looping - make an audio loop with Audacity
- ■ Making Ringtones - For your cellphone
- ■ Burning Audio CDs and How to import CDs
- ■ Exporting to iTunes and Importing from iTunes
- ■ Example Workflows

**Help with Advanced Topics**

- ■ Accessibility - Audacity for the visually impaired
- ■ Latency when recording overdubs
- ■ Chains - for batch processing and effects automation
- ■ Crash Recovery
- ■ Customizing Audacity and Simplifying Menus
- ■ Scripting

### Reference

**Guide to the Project Window**

**1** Menu Bar  **2** Transport Toolbar  **3** Tools Toolbar  **4** Meter Toolbar  **5** Mixer Toolbar  **6** Edit Toolbar  **7** Transcription Toolbar  **8** Device Toolbar
**9** Timeline  **10** Track Control Panel  **11** Audio Track  **12** Selection Toolbar  **13** Status Bar

**Hover over and click on the image to learn more.** Skip the image