

How to Digitize a Sound Track from a CD

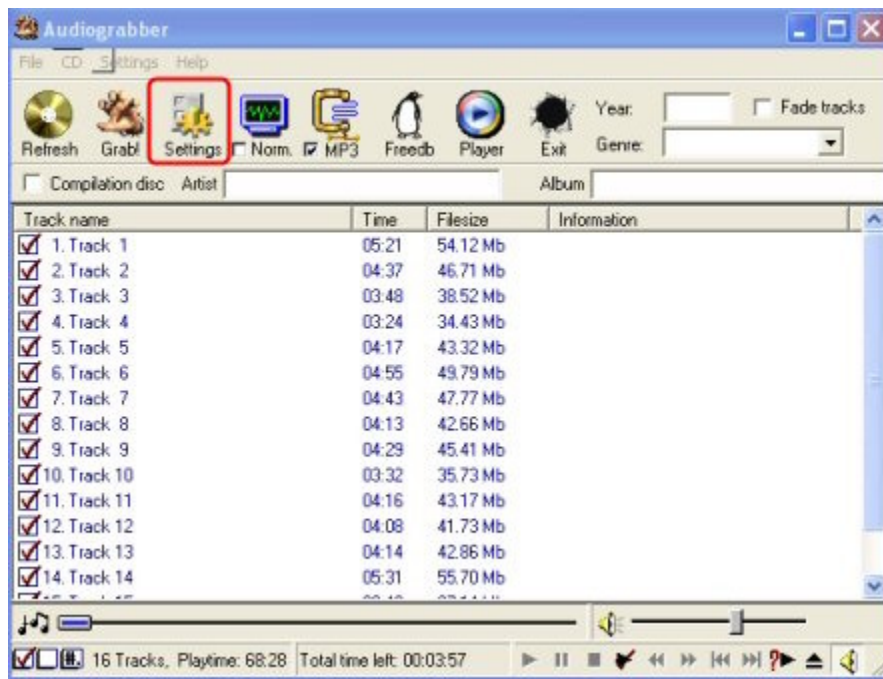
Equipment Needed: Computer, CD-ROM drive, music CD

Software Needed: Audiograbber or Windows Media Player

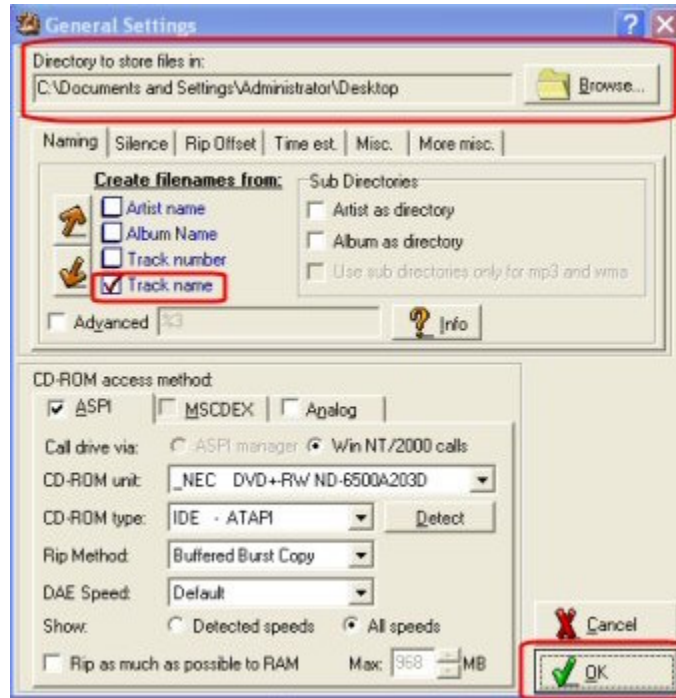
Audiograbber:

Audiograbber is software that allows you to digitize audio, and in particular, to "grab" music tracks from a CD and convert them to .mp3 files that can be used in multimedia projects. It's easy to use, and best of all, it's freeware

Place a music CD in your CD drive, then launch Audiograbber. The opening screen looks like this:

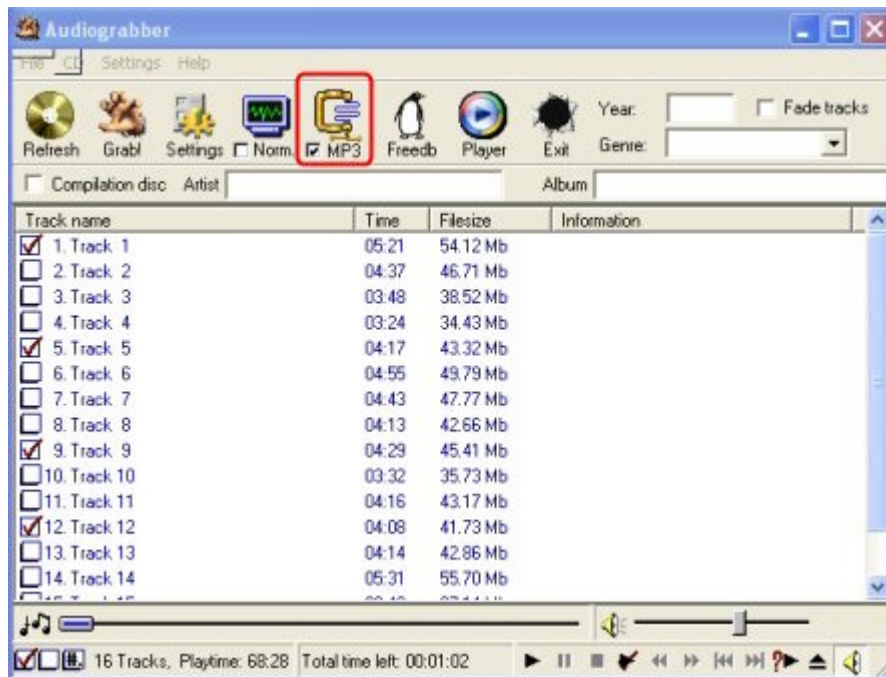


Audiograbber automatically reads the tracks on your CD and lists them by number (Track 1, Track 2, etc.) along with the length of each track (time) and the filesize. To begin, click on the "Settings" icon shown in the red box above.



Now, tell Audiograbber where you want to save the .mp3 files that will be generated by clicking on the "Browse" button, navigating to the folder where you plan to store your files, selecting it, then clicking "OK" to close the browse dialogue box. Check the "track name" so the files will be named according to the track (if possible), then click OK. Two more steps and we're ready to go.

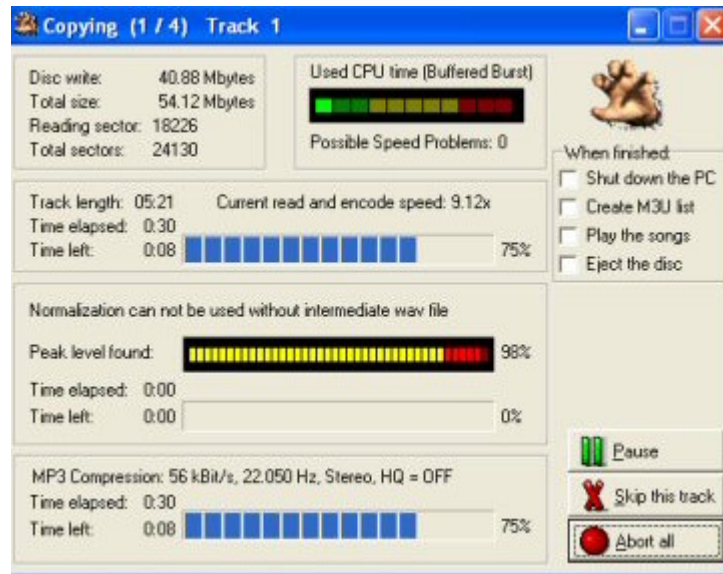
Next, select or de-select the tracks you want to "grab." By default, all tracks are selected. Uncheck the boxes next to the tracks you don't want and be sure there is a check in the box next to the tracks you do want. Finally, be sure the check box next to MP3 is checked:



OK, it's showtime. Click on the "Grab!" button and the ripping process will begin:



You can watch the progress (which is quite fast, actually) on the following screen. When the winking and blinking stops, your tracks will be ripped. To listen to them, open the folder you designated at the beginning as the place on your hard drive where you wanted to store your files, double-click on the file and your designated .mp3 player will open up and play the file.



Please keep copyright laws in mind when using this software!! Just because you can, doesn't necessarily mean you should!!

Windows Media Player:

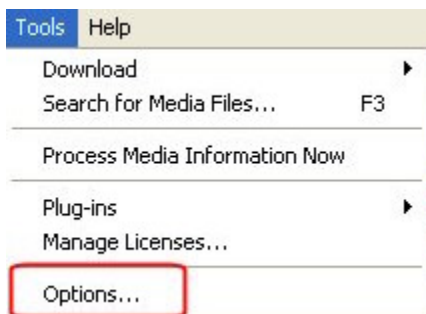
Windows Media Player will do exactly the same thing. To begin, put a music CD in your CD-ROM drive and launch Windows Media Player. At the opening screen, click the "RIP" button at the top:



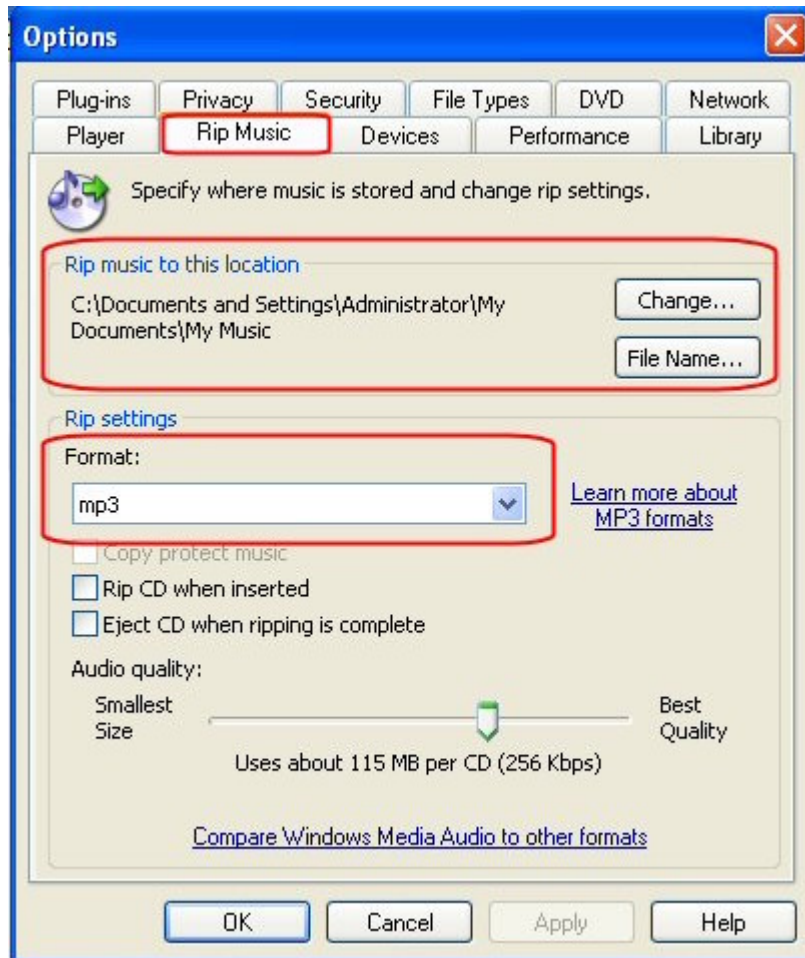
The next screen looks almost identical to the one we just saw in Audiograbber. The available tracks are listed, along with times and file sizes:



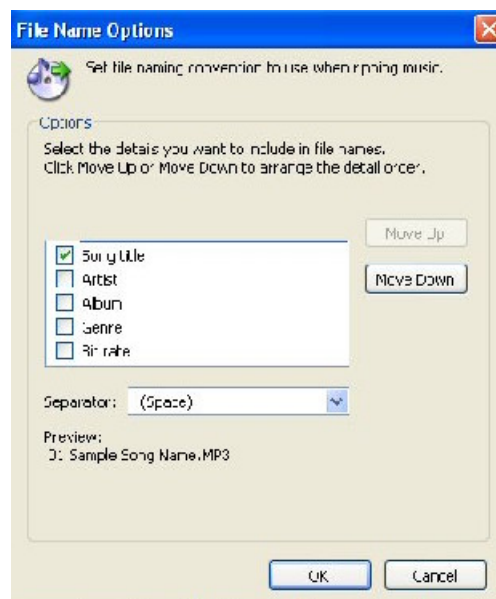
Select and/or de-select the tracks you want to rip by placing a check mark next to the track number for the tracks you want and unchecking the tracks you don't want to rip. One more step and we're ready to go. We have to tell Windows Media Player where to store our ripped (.mp3) files. By default (without ever asking your permission!), Media Player will dump them into My Documents\My Videos. If that's OK with you, you're ready to go. If you want to designate the folder where the .mp3 files will be stored, click on "Tools" then "Options" in the toolbar at the top:



The following screen will open. Click the "Rip Music" tab at the top so you are looking at this:



You can select the location where you want Windows Media Player to store your files by clicking on the “Change” button and designating the folder you want. You can also select the filenaming convention you want to use by clicking on the “File Name ...” button:



You can select the format of your new file (you want .mp3 – the Windows Media format has limited use!!). When all your settings meet your criteria, click “OK” to close the “Options” Box. You’re ready to rip. Click the “Rip Music” button and watch the magic:



The ripping status will be visible. When the process is finished, open the folder where you stored your ripped files, double-click on a file and the program you have designated to play .mp3s will open up and play the file.

What could be easier?

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