

How to Digitize Sound From a Cassette Tape

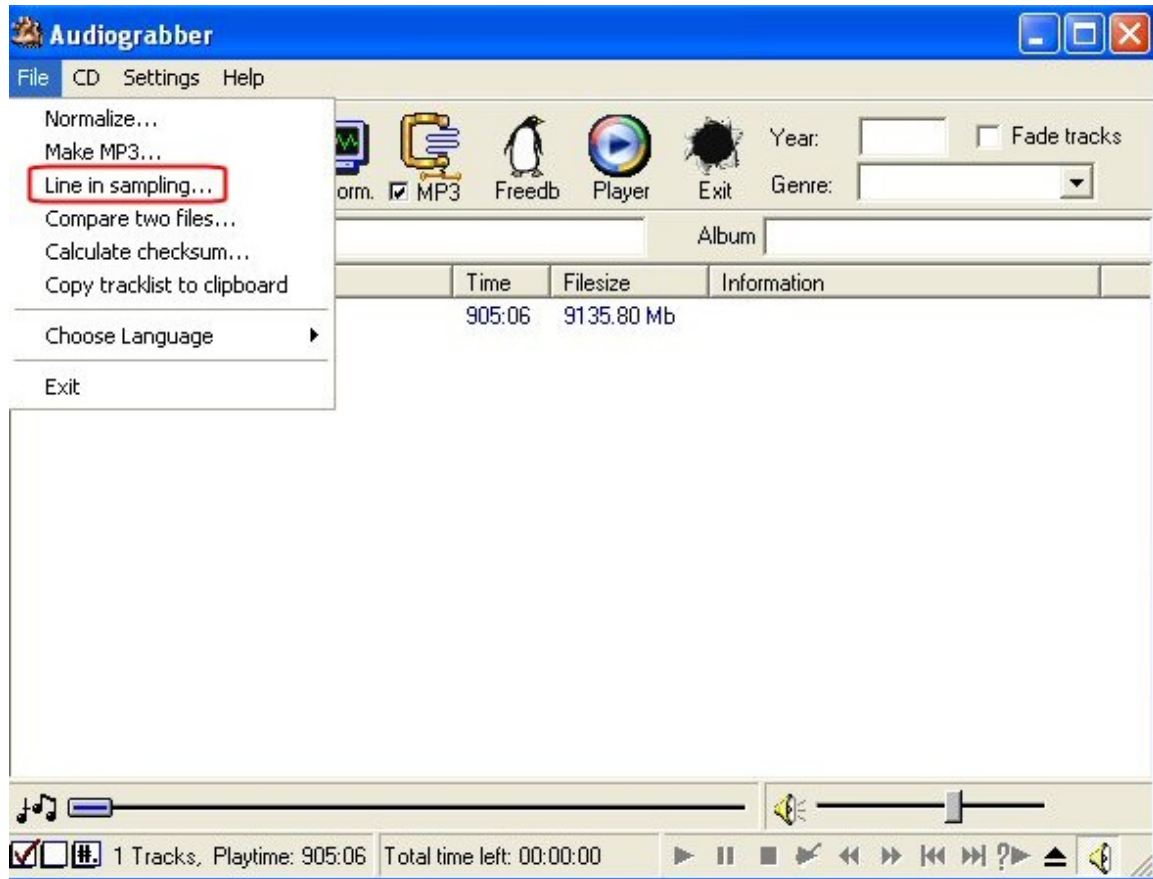
Equipment Needed: Computer, boombox or tape player (ex: Sony Walkman; can also capture from microcassette recorders) with a headset jack (believe it or not, not all cassette players have this jack!!), and an audio cable to connect your cassette player to your computer (available in LRC). Note: certain Radio Shack microcassette recorders require an adapter in order to be able to use this cable. It's available at—where else—Radio Shack—for about \$5.00.

Software Needed: Audiograbber

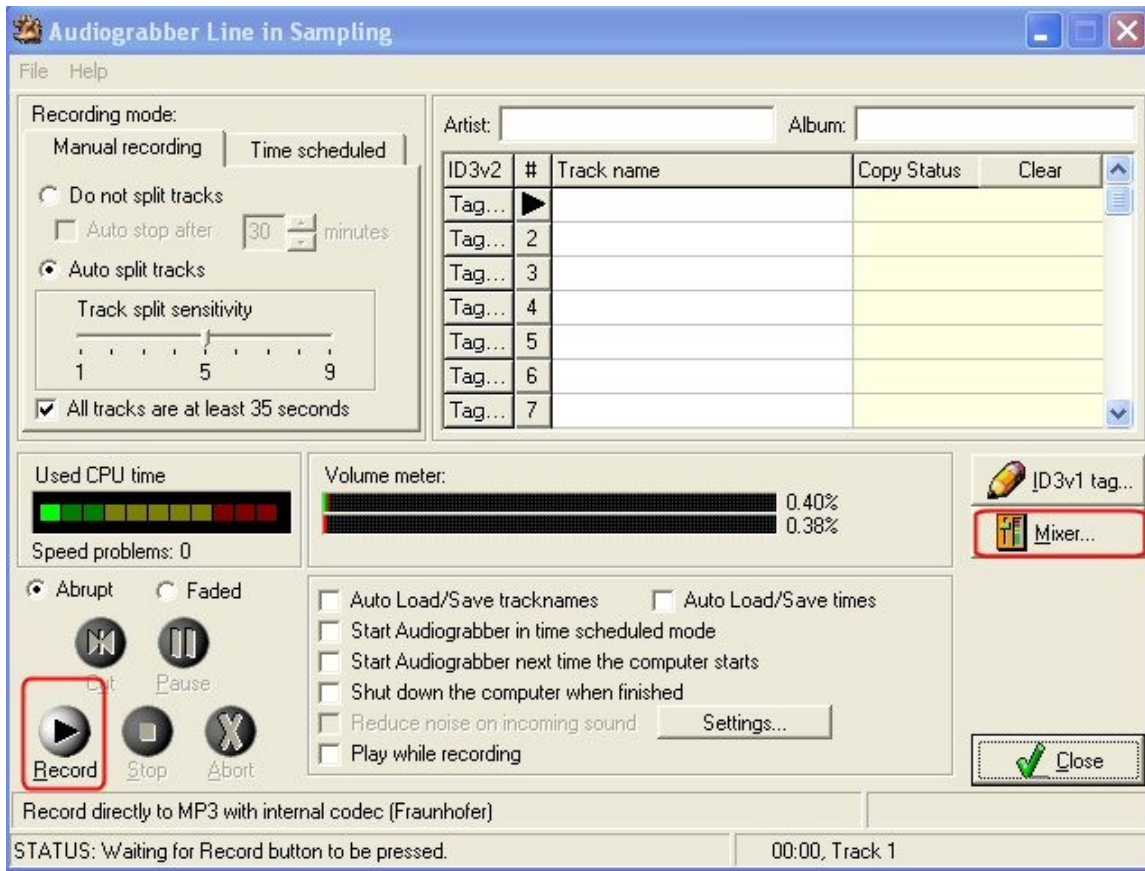
Let's assume you have some old cassette tapes that you want to digitize and make into .mp3s. Whether they are commercial tapes (the sound of Motown from the 60s and 70s), microcassette tapes (from recorded interviews), or lab tapes from China (!!), the old tape cassettes just don't cut it any more!! These are all analog sources; we want to take the old analog format and transform it into a digital format, most likely, .mp3s. It's easier than you think.

First you need to connect your computer to your cassette source. Plug one end of the audio cable into the headset jack of the boombox/Walkman/microcassette recorder. Plug the other end into the line-in jack of your computer (usually the microphone jack). Now fire up Audiograbber (remember this is free software anyone can use).

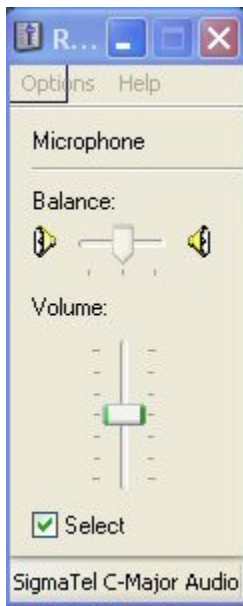
To begin, click on "File" then "Line-In Sampling."



When the Line-in sampling box opens up, click on the button called "Mixer" on the right:



When you click on “Mixer,” be sure the microphone is selected:



You can close this dialogue box and go back to the Line-in Sampling box. You’re ready to being recording. Start playing your tape from its source (boombox, cassette player, Walkman, etc.). Immediately click on “Record” and you will begin capturing your sound. When you get to the end of what you want, click on “Stop.” Save the file and you’re done!!

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