

How To: Transfer Vinyl/Cassette to CD

This is a lot easier than you might think: All we're going to do is use a computer like a tape-recorder to record your original vinyl or cassette, then save each song as a digital file, ready to burn to a CD, put on an mp3 player or whatever!

You need 4 things:

- A record player/ cassette player/ stereo
- A cable to connect it to your computer
- A computer (!)
- Some Software

First of all, connect the output from your source into the input of your computer's sound card. If you have a choice its best to go into the 'line-in' socket on your computer; If you have to use the microphone socket turn the volume right down – Too quiet is ok, it can be fixed; But too loud is a nightmare!

Now open up your software programme – We'll assume you're using 'Audacity', which is about the best free audio editing programme there is. Make sure you're set up to record in stereo by going to *edit>preferences>channels* and selecting '2 channels'. Now make sure you're set to record from the correct input by checking it says 'microphone' or 'line-in', or whatever you're using.

Check the levels aren't going to be too loud by playing your source music and clicking the level meter which is located at the top right of the program window. As long as those red bars don't go up to the '0' you're fine. If they do go up to the zero it's going to distort so turn it down. (You may have to go into *start>control panel>sounds and audio devices>audio>sound recording>volume* to adjust this). Or if your music is coming from a headphone socket, turn down volume on that device.

Now you're ready to start recording – Press the big red record button on Audacity, then press play on your cassette or start your record. At the end of the song press stop on audacity. That's it: Song One recorded. You may want to trim it down a little by clicking and dragging on the portions you don't want to highlight them, then delete them. You can also clean up the audio, increase the volume, change the EQ etc by highlighting the whole song then going into the *effect* menu on Audacity. Once you're happy with the song save it by going into the file menu and clicking 'export as wav' or 'export as mp3'. Specify where on your computer you want to save it and job done!

And that's it: Repeat as necessary. If you get stuck try our forum, here: <http://www.digiwiz.co.uk/store/forum.pl>

Have Fun!