

How do I download and install the LAME MP3 encoder?

Because of software patents, Audacity cannot include **MP3** encoding software or distribute such software from its own websites. Instead, use the following instructions to download and install the free and recommended **LAME** third-party encoder to export MP3 files with Audacity. See the [LAME Legal Issues](#) page for more details.

Windows

1. Go to the external [LAME download page](#)
Left-click this link, do not right-click.
2. Directly underneath "For FFmpeg/LAME on Windows click below.", left-click the link **Lame v3.99.3 for Windows.exe** and save the file anywhere on your computer.
3. Double-click "Lame v3.99.3 for Windows.exe" to launch it (you can safely ignore any warnings that the "publisher could not be verified").
4. Follow the Setup instructions to install LAME for Audacity, making sure not to change the offered installation location of "C:\Program Files\Lame for Audacity" (or "C:\Program Files (x86)\Lame for Audacity" on a 64-bit version of Windows).

You should now be able to export MP3s without any further configuration, choosing **File > Export Audio...** then selecting "MP3 Files" in the [Export Audio Dialog](#).

Troubleshooting

Occasionally, there may be a conflict where Audacity still tries to detect the path to an older lame_enc.dll file. To correct this:

1. Ensure there are no older versions of lame_enc.dll in any locations where Audacity detects it, namely:
 - C:\Program Files\Lame for Audacity or C:\Program Files (x86)\Lame for Audacity (this is where the installer puts the new .dll)
 - the **Audacity installation folder** (usually C:\Program Files\Audacity or C:\Program Files (x86)\Audacity), or in the **"Plug-Ins" folder inside that.**
2. Exit Audacity and navigate to the **audacity.cfg** preferences file at:
 - **Windows XP:** Documents and Settings\<user name>\Application Data\Audacity\audacity.cfg
 - **Windows Vista/Windows 7/Windows 8:** Users\<user name>\AppData\Roaming\Audacity\audacity.cfg.



In order to see audacity.cfg, you may need to set the operating system to show hidden files and folders. See instructions for [Windows 7](#) and [Windows versions before 7](#).

3. Open audacity.cfg in a text editor such as Notepad, and delete the two lines starting with:

```
[MP3]
MP3LibPath=
```

4. Save the changes to audacity.cfg and restart Audacity.

As an alternative to editing the audacity.cfg file, you may instead delete that file itself. However this will completely reset your Audacity Preferences, which may not be what