

# Download and Install Audacity

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**Subject Descriptors:** Audacity

**Application (Version):** Audacity 1.2, Macintosh OSX, Windows XP-Vista

**Task Description:** This lesson will guide you through the process of downloading, installing, and setting up Audacity for your use.

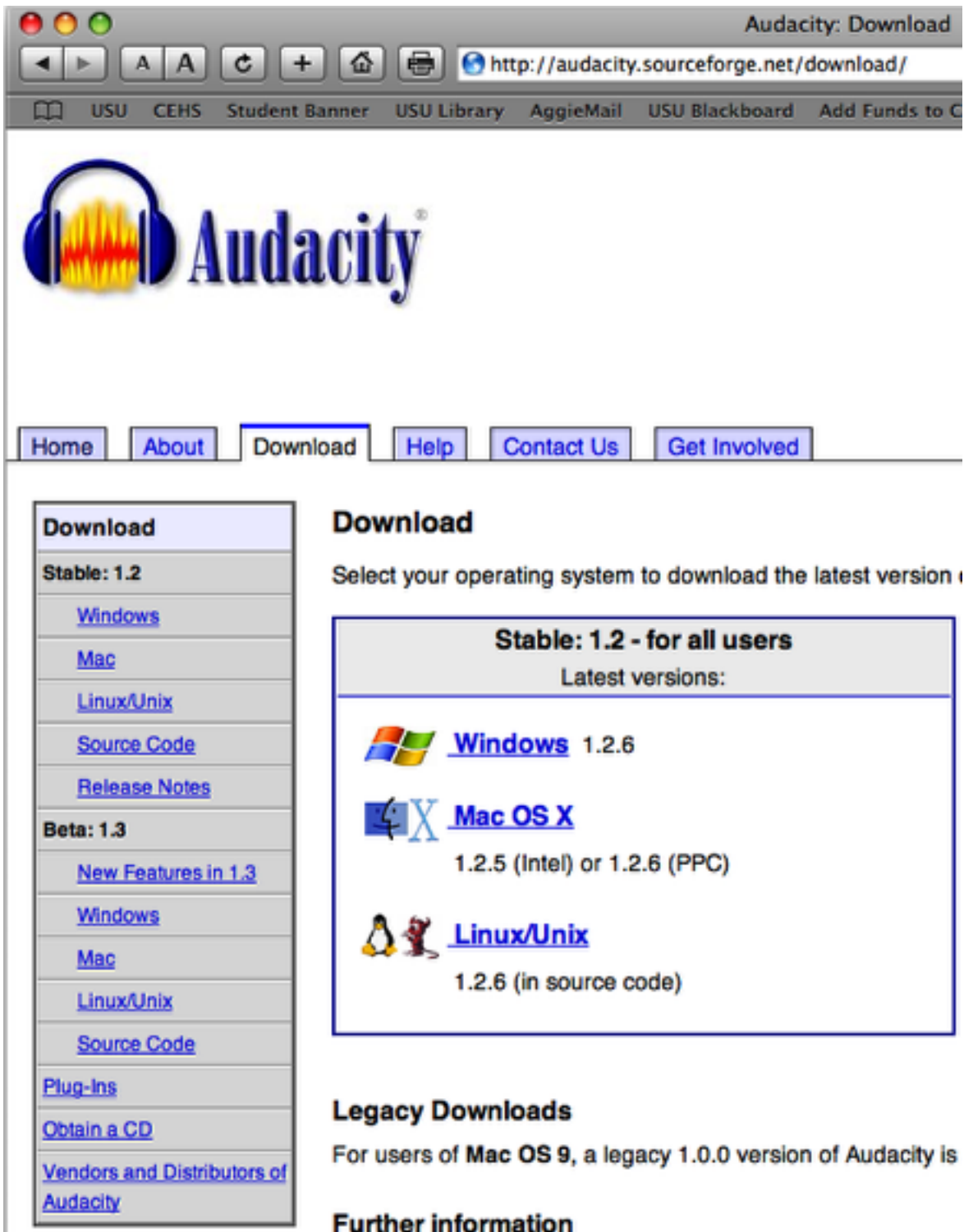
**Tutorial Date:** 15 May 2009, by Nathan B. Smith

## 1. Introduction



Audacity is a versatile audio recording and editing program that can handle various audio formats such as AIFF, WAV, MP3, and other popular audio formats used in private, commercial, and educational businesses. Audacity allows for simple and professional quality audio editing and exporting at no cost.

## 2. Download Audacity



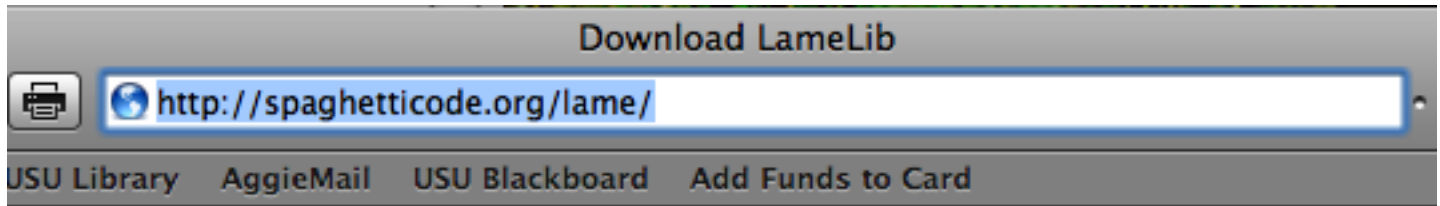
The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Audacity: Download" with the URL <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>. The browser's address bar and navigation buttons are visible. Below the browser, the Audacity logo is displayed, featuring a pair of headphones with a flame-like soundwave inside. A navigation menu includes links for Home, About, Download (which is highlighted), Help, Contact Us, and Get Involved. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with sections for "Download" and "Beta: 1.3". The "Download" section lists links for Windows, Mac, Linux/Unix, Source Code, and Release Notes. The "Beta: 1.3" section lists links for New Features in 1.3, Windows, Mac, Linux/Unix, and Source Code. Below these are links for Plug-Ins, Obtain a CD, and Vendors and Distributors of Audacity. The main content area is titled "Download" and contains the text "Select your operating system to download the latest version". Below this is a box titled "Stable: 1.2 - for all users" with the subtitle "Latest versions:". Inside this box, there are three entries: "Windows 1.2.6" with the Windows logo, "Mac OS X 1.2.5 (Intel) or 1.2.6 (PPC)" with the Mac OS X logo, and "Linux/Unix 1.2.6 (in source code)" with the Linux logo. Below the box, there is a section titled "Legacy Downloads" with the text "For users of Mac OS 9, a legacy 1.0.0 version of Audacity is" and a section titled "Further information".

Go to <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> and select the version that will work with your computer which will then take you to a download options and instructions screen.

### 3. Install Audacity

Once you have downloaded the installer, double click on it to begin the install process. The installer will take you through the installation process.

### 4. Download the Lame.lib library.



LAME is a library that allows some programs to encode MP3 files. For more information about LAME in general, [click here](http://spaghetticode.org/lame/). LAME is free, but in some countries you may need to pay a license fee in order to legally encode MP3 files.

2	<b>For Audacity 1.3.3 on Windows:</b> <a href="#">libmp3lame-win-3.97.zip</a>
1	<b>For Audacity 1.3.3 on Mac OS X (Intel or PPC), or Audacity 1.2.6 on Mac OS X (Intel):</b> <a href="#">libmp3lame-osx-universal-3.97.zip</a>
	<b>For Audacity 1.2.6 on Mac OS X (PPC):</b> <a href="#">LameLib-Carbon.sit</a>

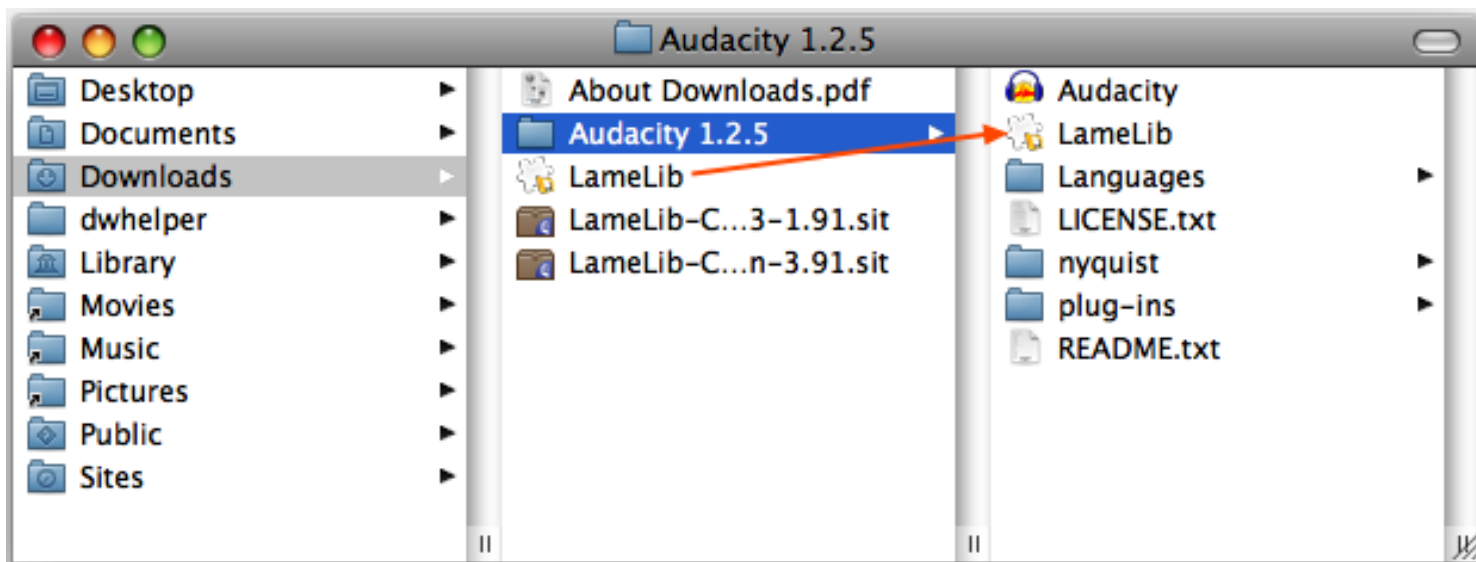
These files are in the Zip format. Either one should automatically extract if you download it with Safari, or if you double-click it in the Finder.

Once you have unzipped the archive, you will have a file called LameLib or libmp3lame.dylib. To use it with Audacity, you can put it anywhere you want, but the first time you want to export an MP3 file, Audacity will ask you for the location of this file, so you'll want to remember where you put it.

Once Audacity has been installed you'll need to download an extra component that will enable it to work with MP3 formatted files. This component is the Lame.lib Library.

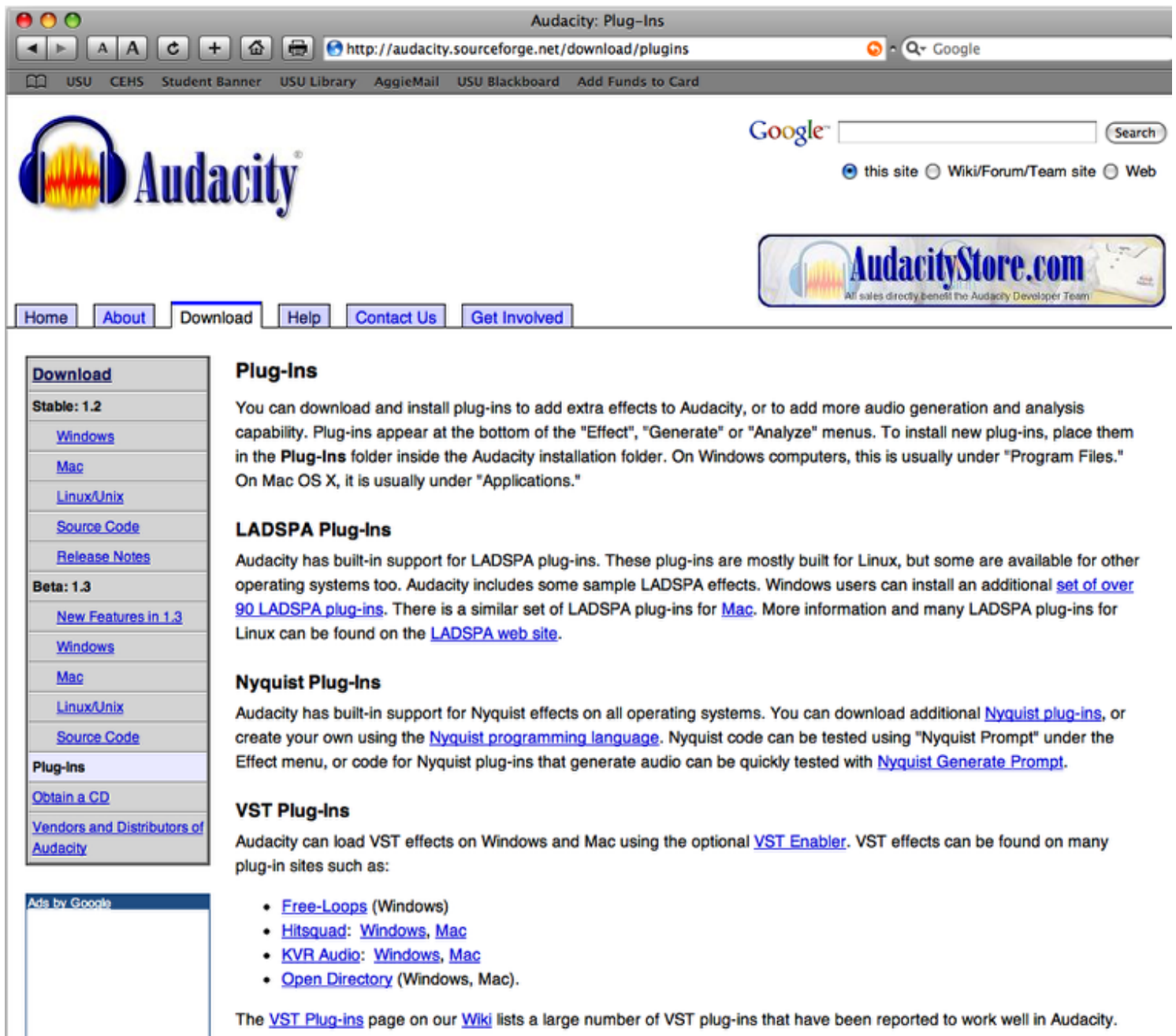
Go to <http://spaghetticode.org/lame/> and click on the one that relates to your operating system.

Download the one that relates to the operating system you are using (If you are using a Mac then you will probably want to select 1, if you're using a PC then select 2).



Once the Lame.lib file is downloaded, just move it into the Audacity folder. You now have the necessary elements for working with audio files, and are ready to start your own projects.

## 5. Download any additional plug-ins (Optional).



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Audacity: Plug-Ins" with the URL <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/plugins>. The page features the Audacity logo, a Google search bar, and navigation links for Home, About, Download, Help, Contact Us, and Get Involved. The main content area is titled "Plug-Ins" and provides instructions on how to download and install plug-ins. It lists various categories of plug-ins: Stable 1.2 (Windows, Mac, Linux/Unix, Source Code, Release Notes), Beta: 1.3 (New Features in 1.3, Windows, Mac, Linux/Unix, Source Code), Plug-Ins (Obtain a CD, Vendors and Distributors of Audacity), LADSPA Plug-Ins, Nyquist Plug-Ins, and VST Plug-Ins. A list of VST plug-in sites is provided, including Free-Loops, Hitsquad, KVR Audio, and Open Directory. The page also includes an "Ads by Google" section.

**Download**

**Stable: 1.2**

- [Windows](#)
- [Mac](#)
- [Linux/Unix](#)
- [Source Code](#)
- [Release Notes](#)

**Beta: 1.3**

- [New Features in 1.3](#)
- [Windows](#)
- [Mac](#)
- [Linux/Unix](#)
- [Source Code](#)

**Plug-Ins**

- [Obtain a CD](#)
- [Vendors and Distributors of Audacity](#)

**Plug-Ins**

You can download and install plug-ins to add extra effects to Audacity, or to add more audio generation and analysis capability. Plug-ins appear at the bottom of the "Effect", "Generate" or "Analyze" menus. To install new plug-ins, place them in the **Plug-Ins** folder inside the Audacity installation folder. On Windows computers, this is usually under "Program Files." On Mac OS X, it is usually under "Applications."

**LADSPA Plug-Ins**

Audacity has built-in support for LADSPA plug-ins. These plug-ins are mostly built for Linux, but some are available for other operating systems too. Audacity includes some sample LADSPA effects. Windows users can install an additional [set of over 90 LADSPA plug-ins](#). There is a similar set of LADSPA plug-ins for [Mac](#). More information and many LADSPA plug-ins for Linux can be found on the [LADSPA web site](#).

**Nyquist Plug-Ins**

Audacity has built-in support for Nyquist effects on all operating systems. You can download additional [Nyquist plug-ins](#), or create your own using the [Nyquist programming language](#). Nyquist code can be tested using "Nyquist Prompt" under the Effect menu, or code for Nyquist plug-ins that generate audio can be quickly tested with [Nyquist Generate Prompt](#).

**VST Plug-Ins**

Audacity can load VST effects on Windows and Mac using the optional [VST Enabler](#). VST effects can be found on many plug-in sites such as:

- [Free-Loops](#) (Windows)
- [Hitsquad](#): [Windows](#), [Mac](#)
- [KVR Audio](#): [Windows](#), [Mac](#)
- [Open Directory](#) (Windows, Mac).

The [VST Plug-ins](#) page on our [Wiki](#) lists a large number of VST plug-ins that have been reported to work well in Audacity.

Plug-ins give audacity additional functionality such as letting you add special effects to selected parts of your audio file (like making someone sound like an alien).

To download plug-ins go to <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/plugins>

**Note:** Audacity already comes with a sizable library of effects and plug-ins itself.

## 6. Viewing further documentation.

If you wish to view additional documentation on audacity go to <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/>