Audio editing software

Autor:
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The following tables compare general and technical information among a number of digital audio editors and multitrack recording software.

Contents

Digital Audio Workstations

Basic general information about the software: creator/company, license/price etc.

Digital audio editorCreator / developerSoftware licenseMicrosoft WindowsMacOSLinuxiOSAndroidNetwork storageExternal hardware

ACID Pro
Magix
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No

Ardour
The Ardour Community
GNU GPL
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

NFS

AudioDesk
Mark of the Unicorn
Proprietary
No
Yes
No
No

Audition
Adobe Systems
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

BandLab
BandLab Technologies
Proprietary (Freeware)
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Bitwig Studio
Bitwig
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

Cakewalk by BandLab
BandLab Technologies
Proprietary (Freeware)
Yes
No
No
No
No

Cubase

Steinberg
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
Yes, as Cubasis
Yes, as Cubasis

Digital Performer
Mark of the Unicorn
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

Fairlight
Blackmagic Design
Proprietary Freeware
Yes
Yes
Yes

FL Studio
Image-Line
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes

GarageBand
Apple
Proprietary
No
Yes
No
Yes

Harrison Mixbus

Harrison Consoles
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

NFS

Kristal
Kreatives
Proprietary (Freeware)
Yes
No
No
No

Live
Ableton
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

LMMS
Tobias Doerffel
GNU GPL
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

NFS

Logic Pro
Apple
Proprietary
Discontinued (last version: 5.5.1)
Yes
No
Yes, iPad only

Luna

Universal Audio
Proprietary / needs UAD/Universal Audio audio interface to run
No
Yes
No
No

Magix Music Maker
Magix
Proprietary / Freemium
Yes
No
No
No

Mixcraft
Acoustica
Proprietary
Yes
No
Wine[1]
Remote only[2]
Remote only[2]

mp3DirectCut
Martin Pesch
Proprietary Freeware
Yes
No
No
No

MuLab
MuTools
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

MultitrackStudio

Bremmers Audio Design
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
Yes

MusE
MuseE
GNU GPL
No
No
Yes
No

NFS

n-Track
Fasoft
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes

Nuendo
Steinberg
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

Podium
Zynewave
Proprietary / Freemium
Yes
No
No
No

Pro Tools

Avid
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

MediaNet (proprietary)
Yes

Pyramix_DAW
Merging Technologies
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No

Yes
Yes

Qtractor
Qtractor
GNU GPL
No
No
Yes
No

NFS

REAPER
Cockos
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
Yes (after version 6.0)
No

Reason
Propellerhead Software
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

Record

Propellerhead Software
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

Renoise
Renoise Team
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

Rosegarden
Rosegarden
GNU GPL
No
No
Yes
No

NFS

Samplitude/Sequoia
Magix
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No

SADiE
Prism Sound
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No

Sonoma

Sony
Proprietary / only works on dedicated Sonoma PC
Windows XP and Windows Vista only
No
No
No

8x8 Meitner audio interface

Soundscape 32
Mackie
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No

External 2U rack unit

Studio One
PreSonus
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No

SoundCloud

Waveform
Tracktion Software Inc
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

Digital audio editorCreator / developerSoftware licenseMicrosoft WindowsMacOSLinuxiOSAndroidNetwork storageExternal hardware

Wave editors

Basic general information about the software: creator/company, license/price etc.

Digital audio editorCreator / developerSoftware licenseMicrosoft WindowsMacOSiOSLinuxBSDOnlineNetwork storageExternal hardware

Acoustica
Acon Digital
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
Unknown
Unknown

Audacity
Audacity Team
GNU GPLv2
Yes
Yes
No[3]
Yes
Yes
No
NFS

Audiotool
Hobnox
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
Not officially supported
Yes
No
Yes
NFS
Optional MIDI support

BIAS Peak
BIAS
Proprietary
No
Yes
No
No
No
No

Diamond Cut ART
Diamond Cut Productions
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
Unknown
Unknown

Ecasound
Kai Vehmanen
GNU GPL
No
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
Unknown
Unknown

Goldwave
Goldwave Inc.
Proprietary Shareware
Yes
No
No
No
No
No

Jokosher
Jokosher
GNU GPL
Yes
No
No
Yes
No
No
No
NFS

NU-Tech
Leaff Engineering
Proprietary
Yes
No
No
No
No

No

RiffWorks
Sonoma Wire Works
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No

Sound Forge
Magix
Proprietary
Yes
Discontinued (last version: 3)
No
No
No
No

Soundbooth
Adobe Systems
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No

Sound Studio
Felt Tip Inc.
Proprietary
No
Yes
No
No
No
No

SoX
Chris Bagwell, et al.
GNU GPL

Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No

SpectraLayers
Steinberg
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No

Sweep
Conrad Parker
GNU GPL
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
No

Total Recorder
HighCriteria
Proprietary Shareware
Yes
No
No
No
No
No

Traverso DAW
Traverso
GNU GPL
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
No
NFS

WaveLab
Steinberg
Proprietary
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No

External gear, MIDI

WavePad
NCH Software
Proprietary / Freemium
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
No

WaveSurfer
Centre for Speech Technology at KTH
BSD-like
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No

Digital audio editorCreator / developerSoftware licenseMicrosoft WindowsMacOSiOSLinuxBSDOnlineNetwork storageExternal hardware

Support

Plugin support

The plugin types the software can run natively (without emulation).

ReWireJACKVSTVST3LADSPALV2DSSIRTASAUDXiMAS

ACID Pro
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No

Acoustica
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

Ardour
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
Yes
No
No

Audacity
No
Yes
Yes
Yes (3.2.0 and newer)
Yes
Yes
No
No
Only on OS X[4]
No
No

AudioDesk

Returns only
No
Via converter
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
Yes

Audiotool
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Audition
Partial (Pre CS5.5 - Yes, CS5.5 - No)
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
Yes
Partial (Pre CS5.5 - Yes, CS5.5 - No)
No

BIAS Peak
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Bitwig Studio
No
Yes
Yes
Yes

No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Cakewalk by BandLab
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No

Cubase
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
Terminated (SX3.1)
No

Diamond Cut ART
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Digital Performer
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
Yes (with Digi TDM or HD hardware via DAE)

Yes
No
Yes

Ecasound
No
Yes
No
No
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No

FL Studio
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
No

GarageBand
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

Goldwave
No
No
Beta
Unknown
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No

Harrison Mixbus
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
Yes
No
No

Jokosher
No
No
No
Unknown
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No

Kristal
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Live
Yes
No
Yes
Yes (Live 10.1 and newer)
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

LMMS

No
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No

Logic Express/Studio
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

Mixcraft
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
DirectX effects only
No

mp3DirectCut
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

MuLab
Yes
Unknown
Yes
No

No
No
No
No
No
No
No

MusE
No
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No

n-Track
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
No

Nuendo
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

NU-Tech
No
No
Yes
Unknown
No
No
No
No

No
No
No

Podium
Yes
No
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Pro Tools
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
Before version 11
No
No
No

Qtractor
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
No

ReWireJACKVSTVST3LADSPALV2DSSIRTASAUDXiMAS

REAPER
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
No
Yes

Yes
No

Reason
Yes
No
Yes
Yes[5]
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Record
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Renoise
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes
No
No

RiffWorks
Yes
No
Yes
Unknown
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

Rosegarden
No
Yes
No
No
Yes
No
Yes
No
No
No
No

Samplitude
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No

Sound Forge
No
No
Yes
Unknown
No
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
No

Soundbooth
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Soundscape 32
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

SoX
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No

SpectraLayers
No
No
Yes
Unknown
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Studio One
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

Sweep
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

No
No
No
No

Total Recorder
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

Waveform
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
Yes
No
No

Traverso
No
Yes
No
Unknown
No
Yes
No
No
No
No
No

WaveLab
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

WavePad
No
No
Yes
No
No
No
No
No
No
Yes
No

WaveSurfer
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

ReWireJACKVSTVST3LADSPALV2DSSIRTASAUDXiMAS

File format support

The various file types the software can read/write.

OMFAAFMIDIWAVMP3AACOggREX2AIFFFLACOthers

Acoustica
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
W64

Ardour
No[6]
No[7]
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
W64, libsndfile library formats[8]

Audacity
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
AMR

AudioDesk
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
SDII (native)

Audiotool
No
No
No
Import
Export
No
Export
No
No
No

Audition
Yes
Unknown
No (unsupported since CS5)

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
AU, IFF, RAW/PCM, SMP, VOC, VOX, WMA

BIAS Peak
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Bitwig Studio
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
WMA

Cakewalk by BandLab
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Import
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
W64, CAF, SDII, AU, SND, DSF, DFF, RCY, ASF, WMA, WMV

Cubase
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes

Yes
Yes
Yes
WMA, W64

Diamond Cut ART
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Digital Performer
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
SDII (native)

Ecasound
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

FL Studio
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Import
Yes
XI, REX

GarageBand
No
No
Yes[a]
Yes
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Unknown
No
No

Goldwave
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Windows Media Audio, AU, Monkey's Audio, VOX, mat, snd, voc

Harrison Mixbus
No
No
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Unknown
Yes
Unknown
No
Yes
AIFC, NeXT AU/SND, Headerless RAW, PAF, IFF/SVX, Sphere Nist WAV, IRCAM SF, VOC, W64, MAT4, MAT5, PVF, Fasttracker 2 XI, HMM Tool Kit HTK, CAF, SD2

OMFAAFMIDIWAVMP3AACOggREX2AIFFFLACOthers

Jokosher
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Kristal
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Live
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
SDII (Mac OS X Only)

LMMS
Unknown
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
AU, DS, RAW, SPX, VOC. Can also open .flp files

Logic Pro
Partial
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Yes

Mixcraft
No
No
Yes

Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes
Yes

mp3DirectCut
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
No
No
No
No

MuLab
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

MusE
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

N-Track
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes

No
Yes
Yes
WMA, EDL, WAV64

Nuendo
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

NU-Tech
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Podium
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Pro Tools
Yes[b]
Yes[b]
Yes
Yes
Yes
Import
Import
Yes (7.4)
Yes
No
SDII (Mac OS X Only)

Qtractor
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
CAF, HTK, IFF/8SVX, MAT4/5, PAF, PVF, RAW, SDII, SDS, SF, VOC, W64, XI

REAPER
Partial
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Partial
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
APE, BWF, MOOG, W64, WavPack

Reason
No
No
Yes
Yes
Import
Import
No
Yes
Yes
No
SF2, ReFill

Record
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
SF2, ReFill

OMFAAFMIDIWAVMP3AACOggREX2AIFFFLACOthers

Renoise

No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
MP4, MP4A, CAF, SFZ

RiffWorks
No
No
No
Export
No
No
Export
Yes
No
No

Rosegarden
No
No
Yes[9]
Yes[10]
Import[10]
Unknown
Import[10]
Unknown
Unknown
Import[10]
Csound, Mup, MuxicXML, h2song[11]

Samplitude
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
WMA, RealAudio

Sound Forge
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Yes

Yes
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
SWF (open only), RealAudio & RealVideo (export only), WMA and WMV, AVI, AIF, SND, MPEG-1 and MPEG-2, AU, DIG, IVC, PCA, W64, FRG, VOX, AA3, OMA, CDA, AC-3 studio (save only), RAW

Soundbooth
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

Soundscape 32
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

SoX
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Yes
External LAME
Unknown
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Yes
AU and other audio file formats

SpectraLayers
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Unknown
Yes
Yes
.caf, .alac, RAW/PCM, .rm, .au, .snd, AVI, MXF, MP1, MP2, MP4, MKV, Quicktime, .vob, .wmv, WMA

Studio One
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
OpenTL, BWF, RF64, PreSonus Capture Session, Steinberg Cubase Track Archive, Steinberg Sequel Project, Kristal Audio Engine Project[12]

Sweep
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
Various versions of WAV (integer, floating point, GSM, and compressed formats); Microsoft PCM, A-law and u-law formats; AIFC and RIFX; various AU/SND formats (Sun/NeXT, Dec AU, G721 and G723 ADPCM); RAW header-less PCM files; Amiga IFF/8SVX/16SV PCM files; Ensoniq PARIS (.PAF); Apple's Core Audio Format (CAF) and others.

Total Recorder
No
No
No
No
Yes
No
Yes
No
No
Yes
PCM (uncompressed), WMA, Monkey's Audio (APE).

Waveform
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Yes
Yes

Traverso
No
No
Unknown
Yes
Yes
Unknown
Yes
Unknown
No
Yes
WavPack

WaveLab
No
No
Controllers
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
AU, MP2, RAW

WavePad
No
No
Import
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes
Yes
import midi, Sun AU, MPEG4 audio, GSM, RAW, Dialogic VOX, AMR Narrowband, Musepack, Monkey's Audio Codec, others

WaveSurfer
No
No
No
Yes
Import
No
With plugin
No
Yes
No
Import: AU, CSL, SD

Export: AU

OMFAAFMIDIWAVMP3AACOggREX2AIFFFLACOthers

Notes

^ Import only, Version 2 or higher.
^ Jump up to:a b With DV Toolkit or DigiTranslator add-ons.

See also

List of music software

Notes

^ "Can I run Mixcraft on a Linux computer using Wine?".
^ Jump up to:a b "Free Remote Control App for Mixcraft (IOS or Android) | Acoustica".
^ "Download".
^ Audacity: Plug-Ins and Libraries Archived 2015-10-24 at the Wayback Machine
^ https://help.reasonstudios.com/hc/en-us/articles/9068790858770-Reason-12-5-with-VST3-support-released
^ "What's about OMF support ? - ardour". 7 January 2007. Retrieved 24 December 2016.
^ In development Archived 2011-06-15 at the Wayback Machine
^ "Supported File Formats". Ardour Manual. Retrieved 2020-04-21.
^ "doc:manual-en - Rosegarden Wiki". Retrieved 24 December 2016.
^ Jump up to:a b c d "doc:audiomanager-en - Rosegarden Wiki". Retrieved 5 July 2021.
^ "doc:manual-en - Rosegarden Wiki". Retrieved 24 December 2016.
^ Randall, Brent (2006-01-31). "Interview with Jim Odom- President Of Presonus". prorec. Archived from the original on September 22, 2012. Retrieved 2010-03-02.

show

v
t
e