

AUDACITY

Last updated: December 2007

Audacity, version 1.2.4b, free. *Audacity* is a free sound editor but it contains several built-in plug-ins (under Effects) and also supports VST plug-ins for audio cleanup. You can download a fully functional version from:

<http://www.audacity.sourceforge.net>

The download file name is audacity-win-1.2.4b.zip, file size is 3.3 MB.

The User Manual is audacity-manual-1.2.zip, file size 456 kB. The manual is a collection of htm files so use your web browser to open index.htm. The whole manual can be read and printed from there.

If you have used any audio editor (*Cool Edit*, etc.), you will find *Audacity* easy to use. There are a few differences and that's what the Manual is for. Under Effects I found Noise Reduction and also Get Noise Profile so I decided to see what I could do with sdemo1.wav.

The first half second of sdemo1 is just lead-in (no music) so I selected it and clicked on Get Noise Profile. Then I selected the whole file (all thirteen seconds) and clicked Noise Removal. The slider that controls how much noise is removed defaults to mid-position so I clicked Preview. The Preview function plays only the first three seconds but it sounded OK so I clicked Remove Noise. Mid-position was too severe and the removal left "artifacts" (distortion) so I clicked Undo to restore the original file, set the slider to 1/4 of full and again clicked Remove Noise. There was just a bit of noise left so I could have tweaked the slider a bit higher and done it again but the resulting file sounded fine so I quit working on it. I'm planning to try a whole restoration project with *Audacity* and it will be reported on in another Case Study.

The current version is 1.3.2 released in November 2006. I have a copy, it's still free, but I haven't taken a look at what new features may have been added.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of this page in Adobe pdf format.

Click [here](#) to return to the Chapter 7 home page.