

# Using the Windows Audacity Sound Editor with the LAME MP3 Exporter Add-On

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The purposes of this note are:

1. Provide a download link for Audacity®, which is a free, open source software product that can run under Windows and is used to record and edit sounds.
2. Provide a link to the LAME MP3 Exporter, which is a free, open source MP3 encoder that Audacity can use to export files in MP3 format.
3. Show how to configure Audacity/LAME to export 128 Kbps MP3 files
4. Show how to use Audacity to equalize the volume of your MP3 files.
5. Show how to have Audacity export any format audio file it can read as a Constant Bit Rate, 128 Kbps MP3 file for use with all Light-O-Rama products. This conversion fixes the timing problem with files ripped at 128 Kbps by Windows Media Player 10.

Follow this link to download and install a copy of Audacity:

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

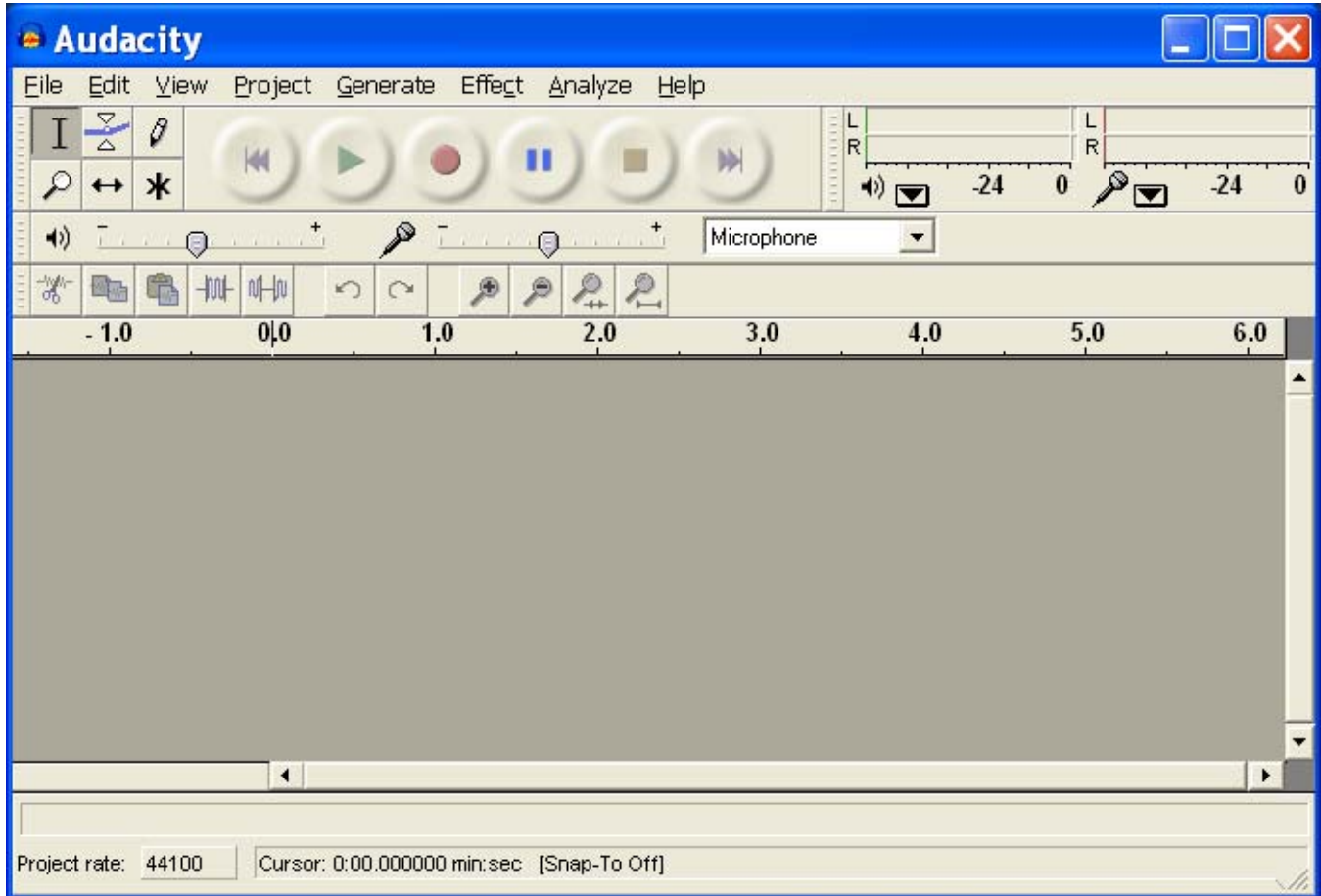
Follow this link to download a copy of the LAME MP3 encoder:

[http://www.gaclrecords.org.uk/lame\\_enc.dll](http://www.gaclrecords.org.uk/lame_enc.dll)

Save this file in the same directory as Audacity, normally C:\Program Files\Audacity. If this does not take you to the lame encoder, go back to the this link: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> and follow the Wiki link. The Wiki should have instructions to install the LAME encoder.

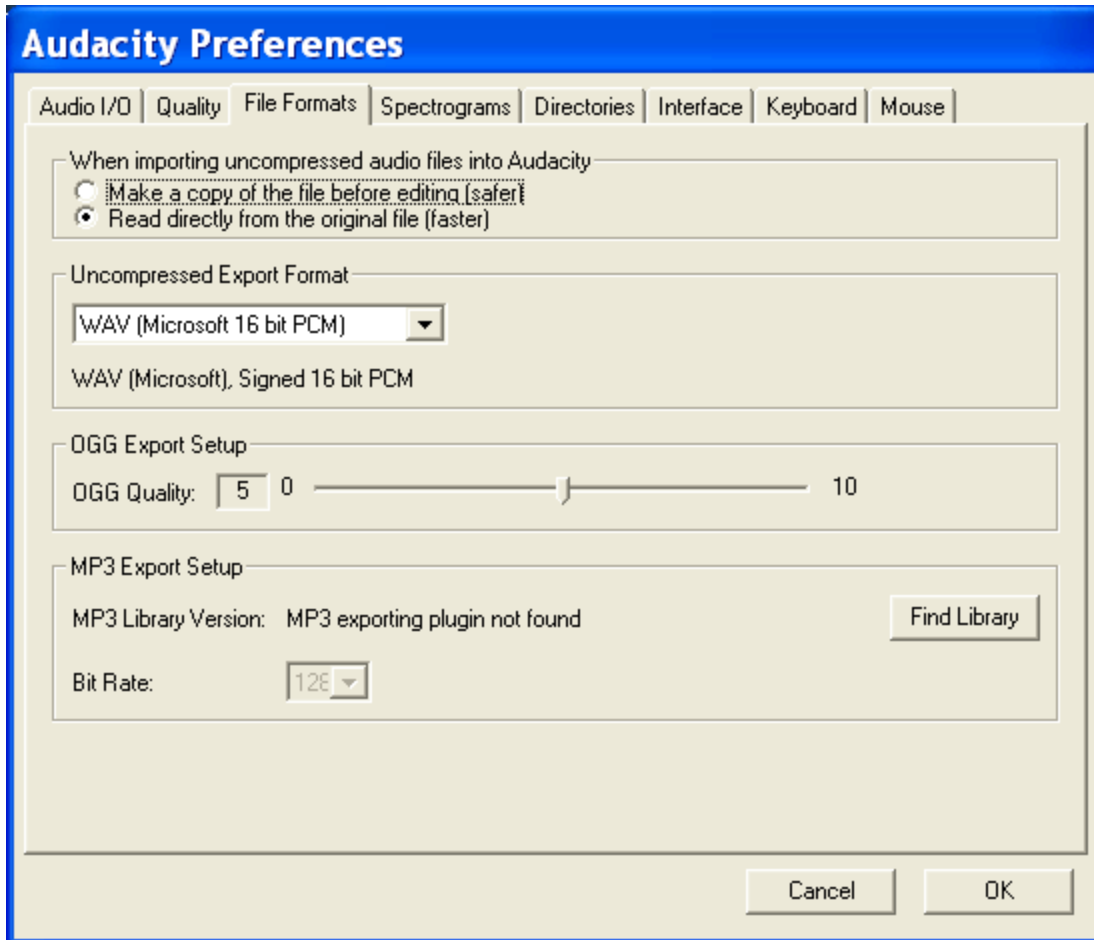
## Running Audacity

Double-click the Audacity desktop icon and you will see this window:

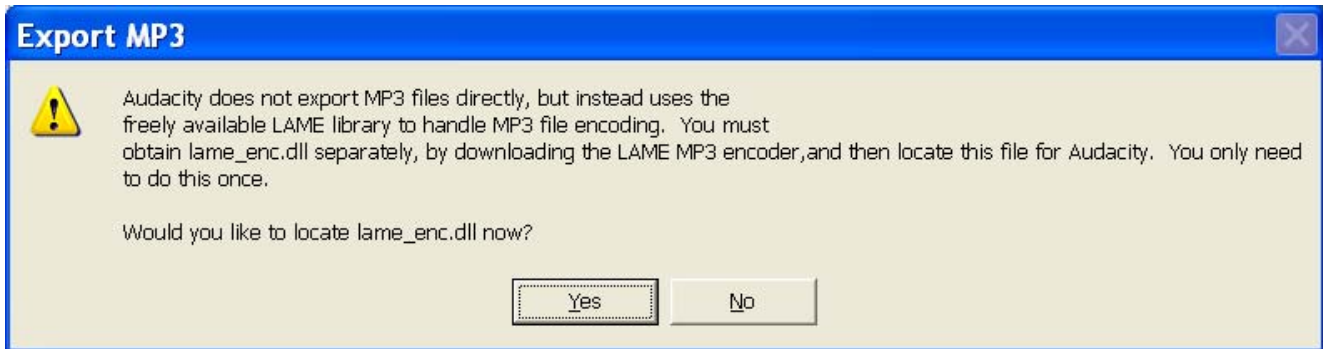


## Installing the LAME MP3 Exporter

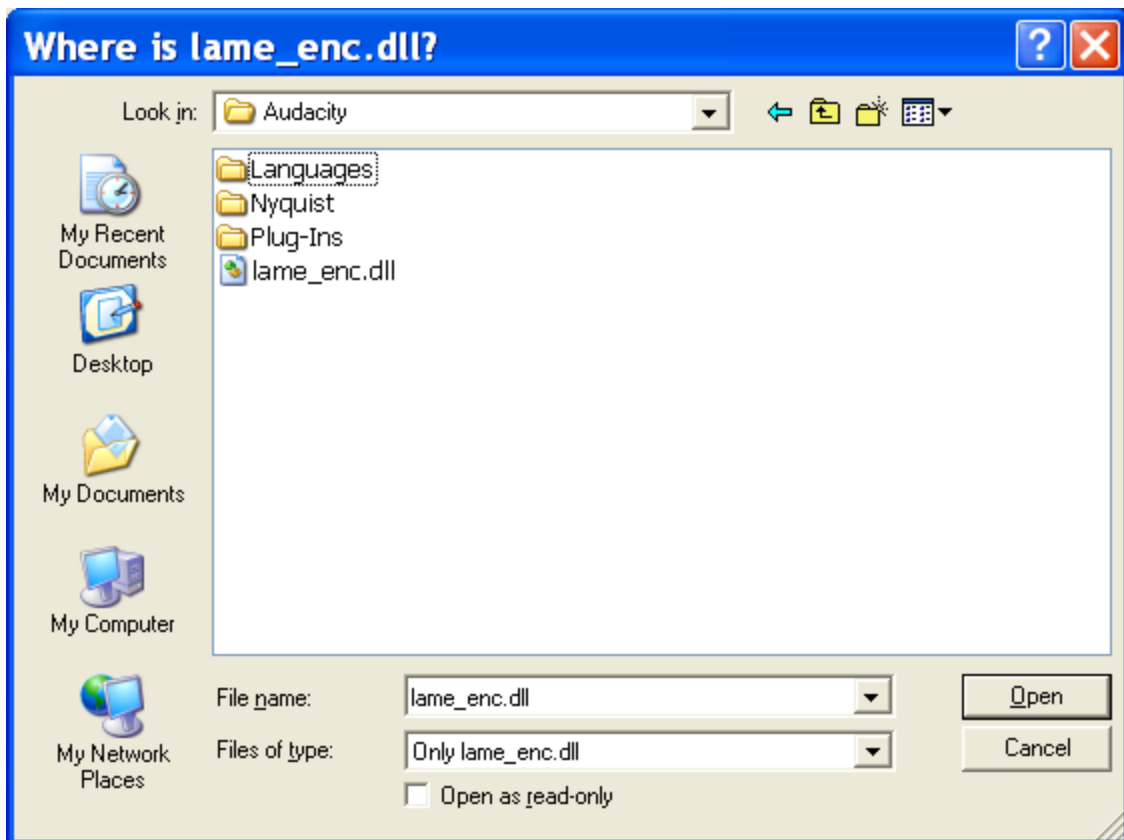
Click *EDIT* ► *Preferences...* and then click the “File Formats” tab. You will see this window:



In the “MP3 Export Setup” section, click the “Find Library” button. You will see this window:

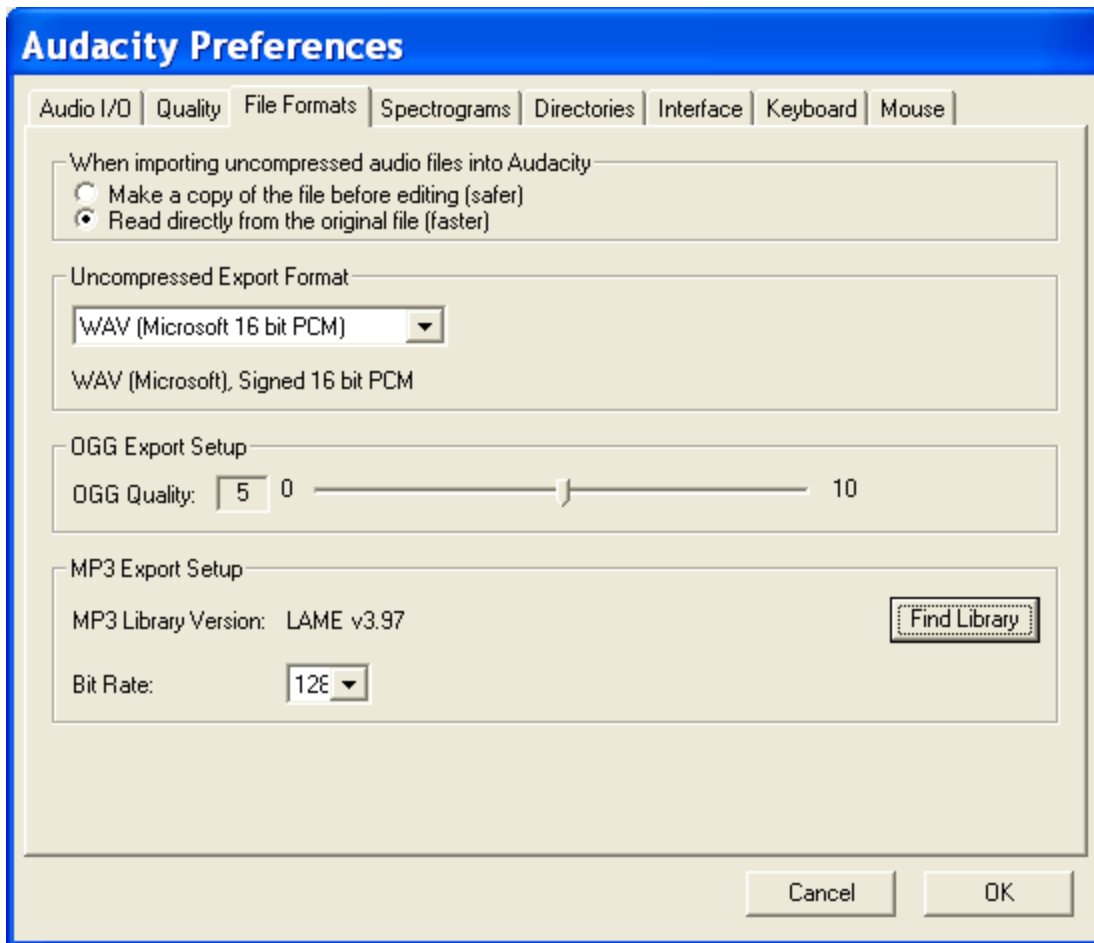


Click the “Yes” button. Use the “Where is lame\_enc.dll” window to browse to where you save the LAME encoder.



Select lame\_enc.dll and click the “Open” button.

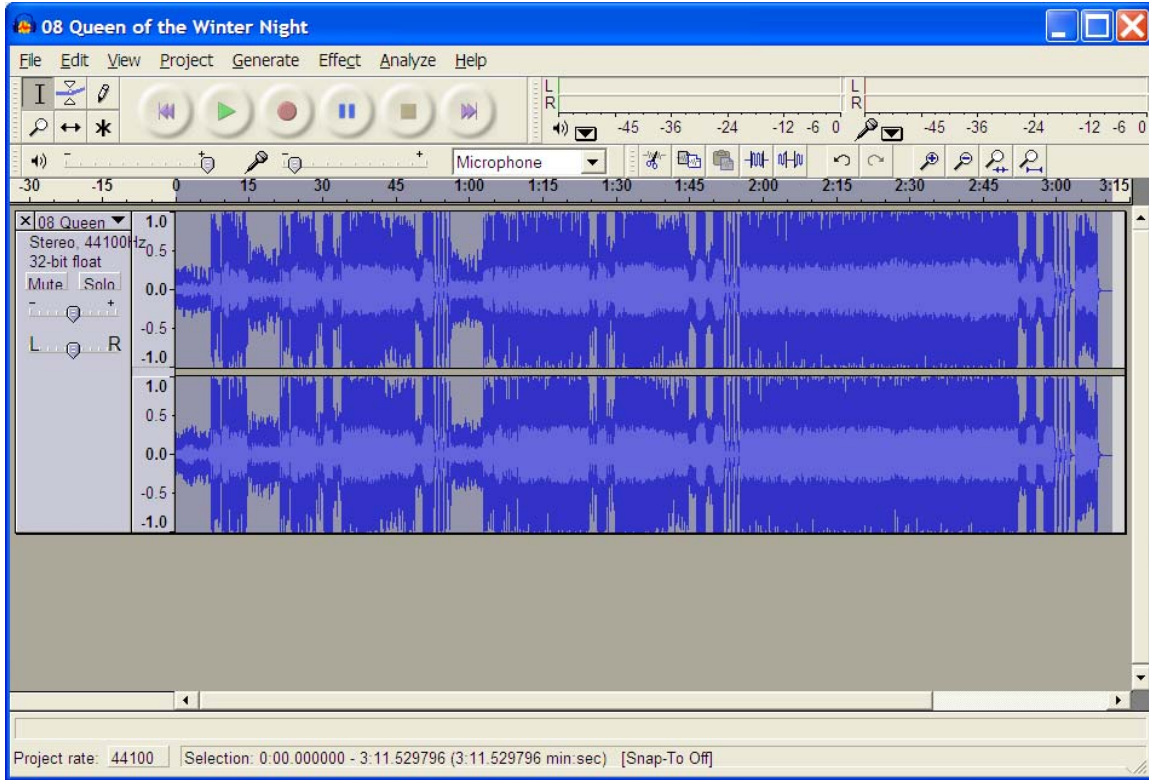
You will be back at this window:



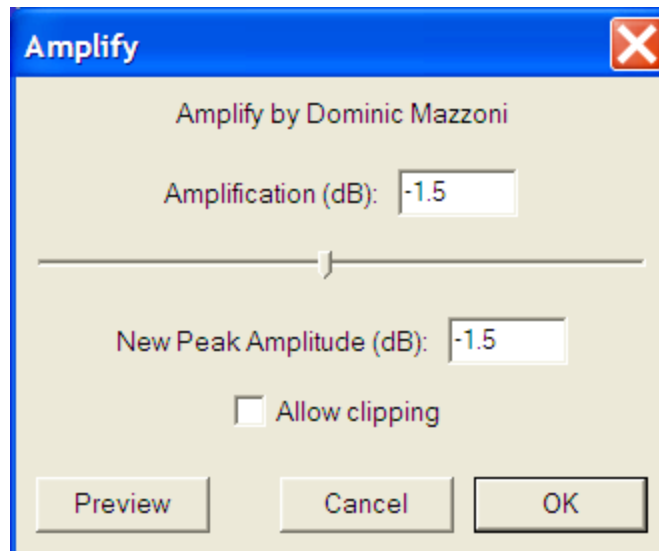
In the “MP3 Export Setup” section use the “Bit Rate:” drop down menu to select 128 and click “OK.” Audacity is now capable of exporting Constant Bit Rate, 128 Kbps MP3 files. This file format can be used by both the Light-O-Rama Windows ShowTime Software and the DC-MP3 Show Director.

## Using Audacity to Change the Volume Level of a File

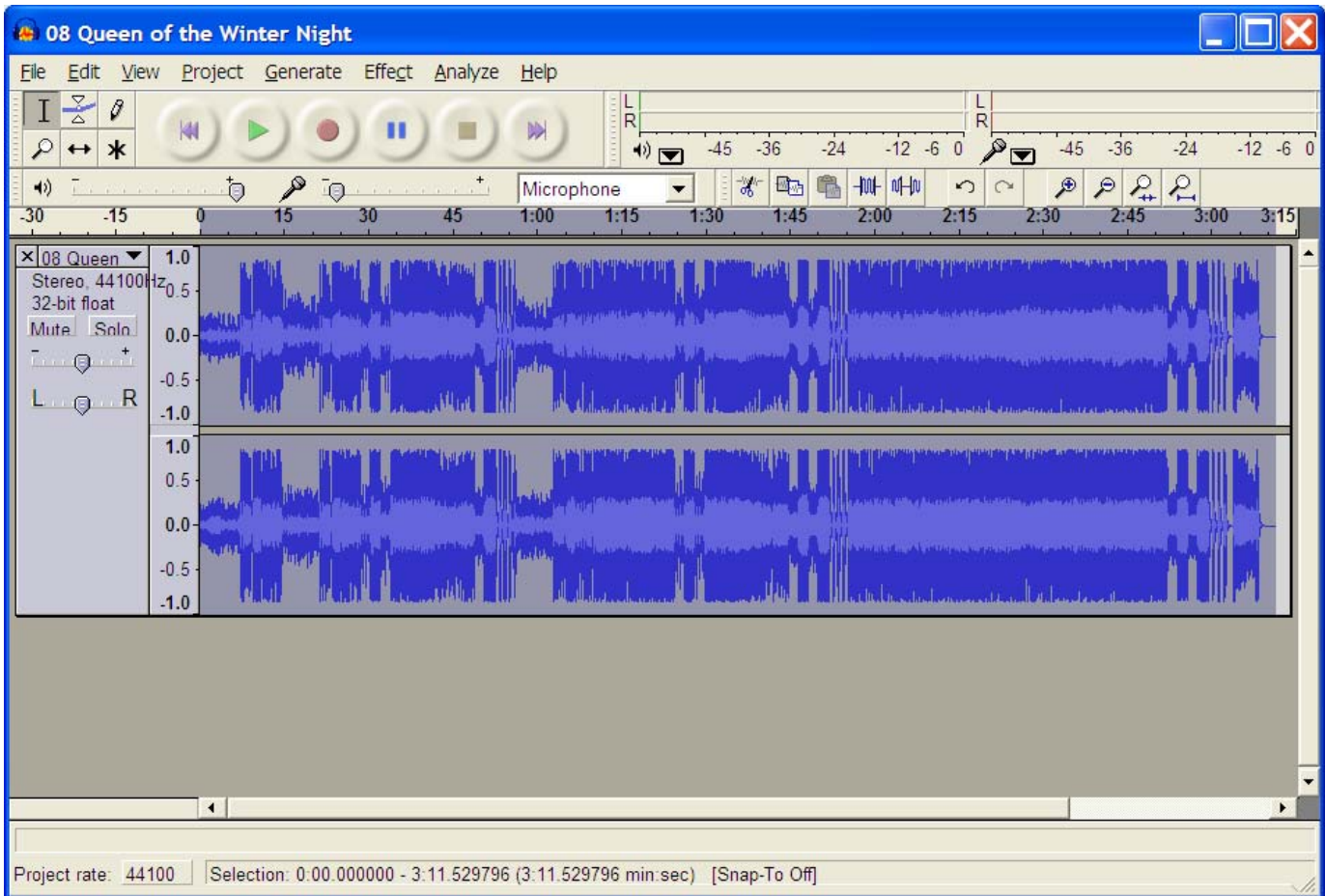
Click *File* ► *Open* and use the file browsing window that comes up to open your audio file. Audacity reads a variety of file formats. After Audacity has read your file you will see a window like this:



Click *Edit* ► *Select...* ► *All* (or type control-A) to select the entire wave form. Click *Effect* ► *Amplify...* and you will see the following window:



Adjust the amplification (plus/minus) and click “OK.” In this example the volume level is being lowered by 1.5 dB. You can experiment with plus or minus some number of dB until you get a feel for the effect. After clicking “OK,” Audacity will recompute the waveform volumes and the waveform will look like this:



You can see that it has shrunk the waveform a little. You can click *Edit* ► *Undo Amplify* or type control-Z to undo the amplify. To equalize a group of songs, read them into Audacity and look at the average size of their respective waveforms and attempt to get them roughly equal. You can use the play button ► to listen to the various songs.

## Exporting any file Audacity can read as an MP3

After you have read an audio file into Audacity and possibly adjusted it in some way, click *File* ► *Export As MP3...* and use the file browsing window to select your output file name. Click “Save” to write the MP3.