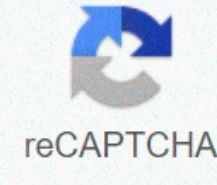




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## Popcorn audio converter tools

What you get with Stellar Audio Converter is simplicity. Whether you download this for PC or Mac, it's very easy to use and most of what you do can be achieved from a single screen or menu. Setup is easy, learning is easy, audio conversion is easy. It is this design economy that stellar Audio Converter earns a place in our guide to the best audio conversion software options for this year. However, with simplicity come the limitations, which we will discuss in more detail below. Most of the programs we've reviewed, including Audials Music and Switch Audio Converter, can convert audio files into batches, adjust the sample rate and bit rate, and change channel settings. This means that you can convert a stereo track to mono or vice versa. While stellar performs batch conversion, it has no volume normalization or audio adjustment options, which are especially useful when the original file is an older recording with low volume problems. This is not a circuit breaker, but some other programs have them. All reputable audio converters support many different file formats and can process files quickly. We have timed each program, as it compressed a large WAV file to a much smaller MP3. During this test, we only run one program at a time and use the same audio settings for each conversion. The results show that Stellar is one of the fastest audio converters in our review. He compressed our big test sample in just over a minute. This is the third fastest conversion time we time. Fast conversion times make all the difference when compressing multiple large files at once. (Image credit: Stellar) Stellar supports 15 different output file formats. That's below average for the software we tested, but all popular formats, such as MP3, WAV, FLAC and ACC, are included. We tested each converter with WAV, MOV, MP4, MPG and WMV video file formats, to see what the conversion was like when extracting audio from video files. Stellar released in this test and extracted audio data from all video files quickly and easily. You can also use this software to convert video files to different formats, and make your own gifs. Where Stellar really stands out, apart from simplicity, is that it offers basic audio and video editing options in the same program. You can edit videos from the same software, adding your converted audio to them, if that's what you planned to do. You can also combine audio tracks and adjust the volume to fit, if that's what you need for your video. Video editing capabilities aren't as good as the ones we see in the best video editing software, which are powerful and dedicated programs, but are fine for basic level editing here. Stellar has excellent help and support options, including direct live chat support. We waited in the chat queue for bit, but the operator we connected with was very helpful and answered all our questions. The email support staff responded to our inquiry promptly, within 24 hours, answered our questions completely. All in all, Stellar has one of the best support teams in audio conversion software. (Image Credit: Stellar) Should I buy Stellar Audio Converter? Stellar Audio Video Converter is fast and easy to use, and the user interface guides you through the step-by-step conversion process. It has a limited number of audio output formats, but all popular ones are covered. It's mid-range when it comes to price, and it's really better for anyone looking to convert audio and apply it to video content in a single program. The fact that it is available for Mac and Windows platforms is good, as are video editing options, but we also feel that it lacks some features – like dedicated Spotify tools – that will make it less appealing to pure audio users. Today's best stellar offers Having the best audio conversion software on your PC or Mac is an extremely useful tool. Whether you like music, working on video creation, or looking to digitize physical media like CDs and DVDs, audio converters are essential. What they do is take an audio track, and record it to create another - usually an MP3, WMA, or other commonly used audio format file. Many will optimize the audio as well, and allow you to cut or combine tracks as needed, dividing your audio exactly as you need it. Most will even tag it and add additional metadata as well, fully preparing the audio file for any device on which you're going to use it. Our reviews of the best audio conversion software packages include free and paid options, and we've chosen them to suit almost every need. If you're just looking to convert a lot of older CDs or music files to MP3, so you can listen on your smartphone, there are several options for you. If you're deepening and want to become an advanced Spotify user, and mix new audio into video projects, there are converters that offer additional features to help you on your way. In evaluating the audio converter software we have considered several factors. Almost all have support for major audio file formats, so we examine the conversion speed, quality and reliability of the final product, the value (if it's a paid app), and the additional features on offer. All audio converters are relatively easy to use, but we also consider it. Below are the best audio converters for 2020. If you need more, we also have a guide to the best video editing software and the best voice recording software as well.1. Audials Music: Best Audio Conversion Software in General (Image Credit: Audials)Audials it's the latest version of Audials Tunebite, and it's a big step forward from previous versions. This software is absolutely full of features, so it is a little more complicated to use than other converters, but what you get is tremendous. When you convert to any of the wide range of audio file formats supported by Audials it will do all the extra work for you, including tagging and adding metadata to your songs. Because it integrates so well with Spotify there additional options for anyone looking to take tracks from the streaming service and listen to them offline. Not only will you take individual songs out of playlists in premium and free versions of Spotify, but it can also be used to download specific graphics and genres, allowing you to discover new music easily. You can easily sort the tracks you download into new playlists and reload to Spotify.Conversion itself is fast, only paired by Switch, and is optimized again for Spotify, it will convert playlists in minutes. There is even an option to convert audiobooks at a speed of 10x, which is useful considering that most of these are more than 10 hours long. Yes, Audials Music is relatively expensive but, if you use all the features, it's a fantastic tool for much more than audio conversion. Read our review of Audials Music2. Switch Audio Converter: A good end-to-end converter (image credit: NCH Software)Switch Audio Converter Plus was our superior audio software for several years, but has lost ground for some rivals. Although it's not the richest in features, it's fast, easy to use, and has all the tools you need to convert audio files in batches effectively. It has extensive support for all major types of audio files: in total, it supports 40 audio formats that can be converted to 26 output formats. This software can not only convert audio from larger lossless formats to smaller formats to save space, it can extract audio from DVDs and other popular video formats like AVI, MOV and MPEG. If you are converting from older formats, Switch has audio normalization, which will improve recording quality and eliminate some noise. Although all of this is done automatically, you can also adjust levels and crop your audio files manually, to maintain full control. In addition, this is done quickly, and Switch is the fastest of all the converters we test, making it ideal if you have large batches of files that need to be converted into a single session. There is a free version of Switch, but it has limited features and will only convert batches of five audio files at a time. It is perfect for testing the software, however, so at least you should give the free trial an advantage. The update is less than \$25, and you get good value for money with the 'Plus' version. Read our Switch Audio Converter3 review. Freemake Audio Converter: Best Free Converter (Image Credit: Freemake)Freemake is (mainly) free audio conversion software. We say 'mostly' because although it is in fact free to download, this version only allows you to convert audio into files of three minutes or less. So, if you're Audio to MP3 to listen to music on your smartphone, this is not suitable for most of the tracks you're going to convert. If you want the full feature set you need to pay to upgrade. Freemake also tries to download an additional program to your PC when you download the audio converter, so you need to choose not to. Other than this, however, it is a decent piece of audio conversion software, especially since it is free. While while Files is slow compared to Switch and Audials Music, Freemake can handle batch conversion and will optimize audio for you to a decent degree. It's easy to use and won't take up much space or resources on your computer. What's impressive here is the list of supported audio files - in 50+ it's one of the widest and most extensive programs we've reviewed. Freemake can also convert video to pure audio tracks as well, just like all other audio converters. Read our Freemake Audio Converter4 review. Stellar Audio Converter: Very simple to use (Image Credit: Stellar)Stellar Audio Converter is a mid-range tool with a very easy-to-understand interface. If you need a reliable program that is very basic to use, this is a good option. He's a solid artist who doesn't really do anything better or worse than the other packages in this guide. It is medium priced, at half speed, and has limited (but not totally sparse) characteristics. However, a small advantage here is that Stellar has a built-in video editor, making it a comprehensive software for anyone who converts audio to add to their video projects. You can make all kinds of videos, adding converted audio to your choice, either in the same format, trimmed or sewn along with other files. You can even use this to make gifs as well. On the downside, Stellar struggles with normalization, and doesn't bring as many audio editing options as other apps. If you're converting from streaming services, for example, you'd better look elsewhere. Read our review of Stellar Audio Converter5. Xilisoft Audio Converter: Good for older audio (image credit: Xilisoft)If simplicity is the most important factor, then Xilisoft Audio Converter is a good choice. It is fully compatible with Mac and PC, and is easy to use in both formats, especially if you are looking to convert audio into individual files or small batches. Normalization here is particularly good, so it is good software to pair with any type of cassette audio conversion or older LP records. However, there are disadvantages. The price is one - this software costs as much as Switch, but it is much slower in your audio conversions, so if you are making larger batches of files we can't really recommend. It has the same compatibility as other programs, which is good, and can also be used to take audio from video formats. Xilisoft also has basic audio editing tools built in, but nowhere near as many more specialized programs as Stellar. If you want to do limited manipulation of your audio files, and are looking to bring a handful of older formats, this could be the converter for you. Read our review of Audio ConverterBest cassette to MP3 converters The best headphones? Best Home Computers Why convert audio at all? Now that CDs have traveled the same path to obsolescence as cassette tapes and eight tracks, the ability to effectively archive their music library in the digital realm has become a valuable commodity. We try all the features of free and paid Conversion software to ensure that we recommend a product that can handle all your audio manipulation needs for current and future music formats. Although there are free software options, such as iTunes, that can extract audio from a CD and convert it to a smaller, more manageable file size, we find through our testing process that can spend less than \$30 on good audio conversion software and prepare your ability to efficiently collect, archive and share music. We also recognize that you may have a temporary need to convert some files, so we tried the best free audio converters so we could recommend a product that will not introduce adware and spyware into your computer. We also talked to Ben Westgarth, senior audio software engineer at NCH Software, about the best lossy audio formats to archive a music collection. He told me that there is a controversial debate on the subject between industry professionals and casual users, but there is a clear winner in terms of file size to sound quality ratio. AAC is widely considered to be a higher format - it can compress to a smaller size for the same quality compared to MP3. The main concern with converting to AAC instead of MP3 is compatibility with media players. AAC was developed by a group of companies, including Nokia, Dolby and Sony. It is promoted as a successor to the MP3 file format and is used by large streaming platforms such as Apple and YouTube. However, it still cannot match the ubiquitous device support offered by MP3. Although AAC is a better lossy format in terms of audio quality, Westgarth strongly suggests that MP3 files not be converted to AAC. In this scenario you are taking a lossy format and re-compressing it in another, and it will only reduce the quality of your audio - you won't improve it! (Image Credit: NCH Software) Important audio formats for uploading music to streaming sitesEs important for audio conversion software to work quickly and efficiently, as well as to have a wide variety of file format options, including lossy and lossless formats. Each music streaming service has a preferred format for streaming and archiving music - unfortunately, not all services use the same format. WAV is a lossless acceptable format for most services. However, depending on the service, that file can be converted and compressed to a different format. MP3 files can be uploaded to all popular streaming services, but there is no reason to convert a lossless file format, such as WAV, to MP3 if not. Spotify uses the lossy Ogg Vorbis (OGG) format to stream music through its desktop and mobile, and you can convert a WAV file to OGG using trusted audio conversion software, rather than relying on Spotify to do the conversion for you. Apple Music uses a format called AAC, and Amazon Music uses MP3. Tidal and Deezer stream music with the highest quality using the FLAC format. Allowing the streaming service to compress and convert your audio files doesn't necessarily necessarily mean quality will degrade, but some compression algorithms increase peak signals enough for audio to sound distorted. When you use a trusted program to convert your files to the right format for each platform, you can listen to each one to get a good idea of what it will sound like once it's published. Play drm-encrypted files on multiple devices Large-scale digital media distributors, such as Apple and Amazon, use Digital Rights Management (DRM) encryption for copyright protection and to authenticate the media player that authorizes you to play the encrypted files. When you purchase an album or song from iTunes, the DRM-protected file can only be played on an Apple device associated with your Apple ID. If you want to play that song or album on an Android phone or tablet, you must use a copy of the file that does not have DRM encryption. You can tell if a file is encrypted or protected by right-clicking on it and querying its properties. Audio conversion programs, such as Audials Music, are a legal solution for playing DRM-protected audio or video files on any device. Instead of removing DRM encryption, Music records the audio or video file and converts it to a format that you can use on any media player. If you legally purchase movies, music, audio books and podcasts, making DRM-free copies for personal use on multiple devices is legal. However, if you decide to share the unencrypted file on a file sharing platform or distribute the file with the intention of making money, cross the legal limit. Please read carefully the terms of service of the platform you use to purchase digital media before using audio conversion software to make copies of DRM-protected files because each country's copyright laws are different. (Image credit: Audials) Important attributes of Audio Converter software import and export formats It is important that an audio converter is able to import all available audio formats and convert them to a format that you can use. There are over 50 types of audio files in use today, and the best converter software programs can work with all of them. The free converters we test can import popular lossless formats, such as WAV and FLAC, and convert them to popular lossy formats such as MP3 and AAC, but the best paid converters can also import lesser-known formats, including proprietary audio formats from companies like Sony, Microsoft and Yamaha.Conversion Speed Speed may not be an important consideration if you need to convert only a few files. However, fast conversion software could save you hours if you have a lot of files to or find yourself converting files often. Slow conversion speed is the biggest disadvantage when using free conversion software. Extraction capabilities The best audio conversion software programs can not only convert and compress files, but can also extract audio from video files, streaming services and CDs. If you use streaming services like Spotify or Amazon Music, some of the audio converters we've tested tested Record a playlist and convert the songs to small files so you can upload them to a mobile device and listen without using cellular data or WiFi. One of the converters we tested can also record streaming video from services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Basically, it is legal to record a streaming service if it is done at home and for non-commercial use. This article summarizes the definition of the law and what it means for someone who buys audio conversion software for that purpose. What is an AMR & How Do I Open It? File type AMR (.amr) was developed by Ericsson, the once popular mobile phone manufacturer, and is now used by Android phones. It was created and optimized for cell phone voice recordings and is a popular format for voice note apps. Because the AMR file type was specifically developed to record voice, phones and applications that record audio using this format are not ideal for recording more dynamic sources such as natural sound and musical instruments. There are a couple of popular video players that can open and play AMR files without installing a codec package on your PC, such as VLC Player and QuickTime. However, most media players, such as Windows Media Player and iPhones, require conversion. If you have an AMR file that you want to open with an iPhone or other mobile device, convert it to a more universal audio format like MP3 using any of the conversion programs we try. Because AMR is a compressed audio format, you do not run the risk of losing fidelity when you convert it to another lossy format. However, do not expect the audio quality to improve when converting the file. If you only need to convert a small number of files less than a minute long, we recommend a free program like Freemake. However, if you have multiple files that you need to convert and edit, we suggest that you use a more robust converter like Switch or Audials because they are significantly faster and make it easier to batch convert multiple files at once. The best paid audio conversion software we test also includes simple editing tools that you use to trim unwanted pauses and parts of the recording you don't need. Audio Converter Mobile Apps The mobile applications of the audio converter are much slower than the best programs we try, and even the best accident from time to time. However, if you need to convert an audio file with your phone, these are the best options. Switch Audio File Converter Switch is our favorite audio conversion software, and is also available as a mobile app for Android devices. It supports more than 40 types of input and output files and has a batch conversion function that runs in the background while using other applications. Allows you to preview tracks before converting them, and all music tags are retained in the conversion process. The audio converter This app is only available for iPhone and iPad, but the user interface is clean and easy to import more than 30 file types, including popular video formats, and export to 10 of the most popular audio formats. The input and output file types are not as complete as the Switch application, but this application has an easier-to-use interface. There is a file browser feature that makes it easy to find the audio file you want to convert and share your converted file via popular social media platforms directly from the app. Audio MP3 Cutter Mix Converter This mobile audio converter app is only available for Android devices, but it is free and has an awesome toolbox to convert and manipulate audio files. It supports all popular audio formats, including MP3, WAV and AAC, and has an extensive list of features to edit and combine audio files once they are converted. The audio editing tool is easy to use and allows you to zoom in on a portion of the audio file, crop the clip, and set it as a ringtone or notification tone. This app also has a feature that combines multiple songs to make a custom iConverter remix.iConverter is a free mobile app for iPhone and iPad. It has a good selection of audio input and output file types, as well as its comprehensive list of supported document and video file types. This conversion app works perfectly with the File app and allows you to drag and drop files into split screen tasks. iConverter has a simple audio editing tool and supports the most popular compression formats to help send large folders via email or text. (Image credit: Freemake) Paid free vs paid audio conversion software The most obvious and important difference between free software and paid software is conversion speed. During testing, Freemake, the best free audio conversion software, took four times longer than the fastest program, Switch, to convert a WAV file from 625 MB to MP3. The other free converter we tested, File ZigZag, is an online conversion tool that was 30 times slower than Switch in converting our test file. It also limits you to a file larger than 180 MB per day and 2 GB or smaller files. If you need to convert files frequently or a large number of files at once, we recommend spending between \$20 and \$30 on a program that does not crash often and can batch convert multiple files at once. I spoke to the senior audio software engineer in charge of Switch and asked him why he should pay for the conversion software. He said: Reliability, stability and quality. He noted that NCH Software has constantly updated and improved Switch for more than 20 years, and each time a new version is released, going through a wide range of intensive internal testing procedures. If you are serious about the quality of your music collection and other audio files, it is worth spending a few dollars to make sure that the software does not impart unwanted artifacts or noise during the conversion process. Process. Process.

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