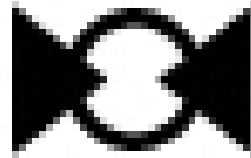


Recording audio into the computer for Final Cut Pro

If you've recorded audio for your project on a minidisc or DAT recorder, you have to bring it into the computer before you can use it in your FCP project. First, you need to connect your audio device to the computer's audio input jack. On most of the Macs in the Digital Studio, this is located somewhere on the back of the CPU. It looks like a headphone jack, and has the symbol shown below next to or above it.

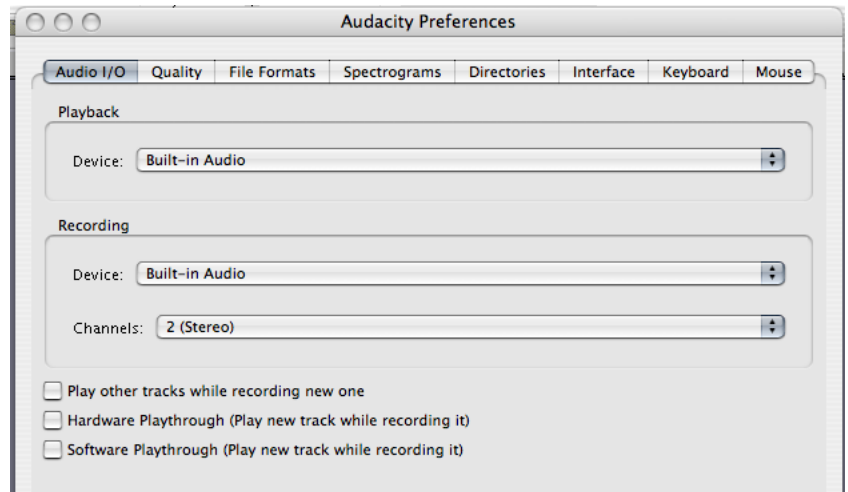


Connect a miniplug to miniplug cable from the line out jack of your recording device to the computer's audio input jack. If your audio device doesn't have a line out, use the headphone jack instead. Miniplug cables are in the grey cabinet in the Digital Studio or may be included with your audio device if you borrowed it from New Genres. Both ends of the miniplug cable will look like the plug on standard headphones.

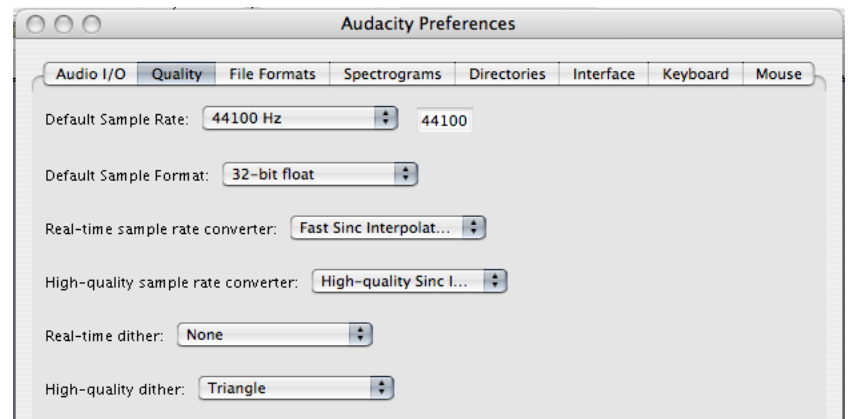


After connecting your audio device, launch the Audacity application. If it's not in the dock, check in the main Applications folder. The icon looks like a pair of headphones. After Audacity starts, we need to be sure it's configured properly before doing anything else. The default audio sample rate, number of channels, and file type are typically wrong for video use. We'll check (and change as needed) those settings in the next few steps. Go to *Audacity > Preferences* to open the Preferences window.

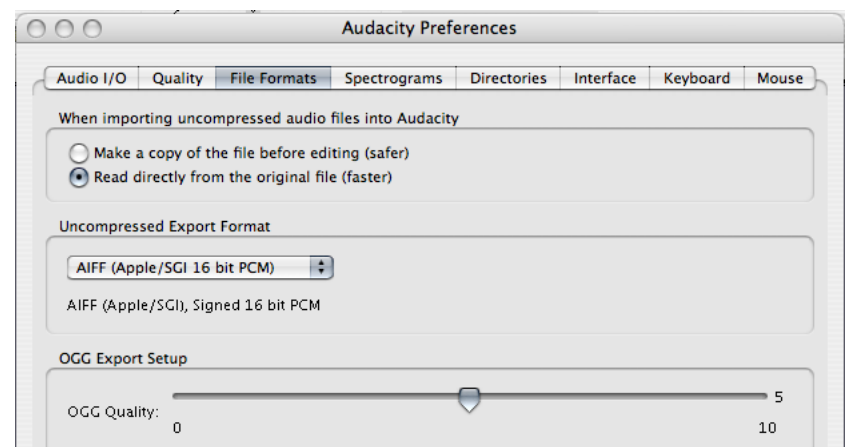
The first setting to check is the audio devices and channel count. Make sure that the Recording Device is “Built-in Audio” and Channels is “2 (Stereo)” as shown below.



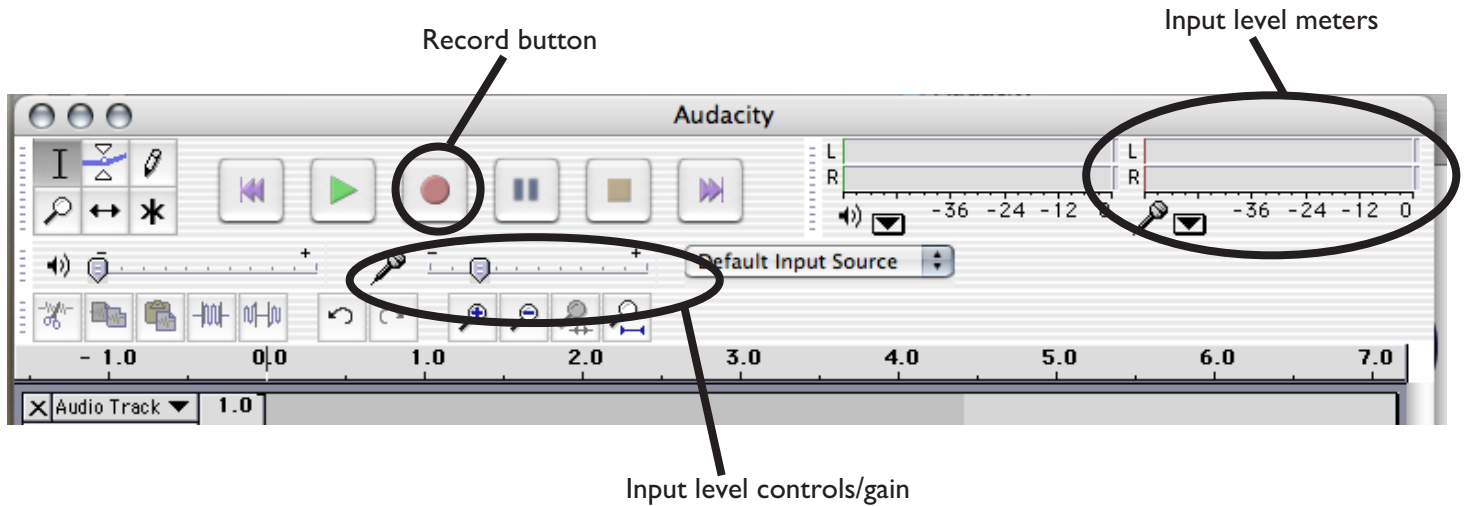
Click on the “Quality” tab and check that the Default Sample Rate is either 44100 Hz (for CD recording) or 48000 Hz (for video editing). Audio CDs are recorded at 44100 Hz, Mini-DV tapes at 48000 Hz. If you pick the wrong one, you can still make it work, but audio may require rendering.



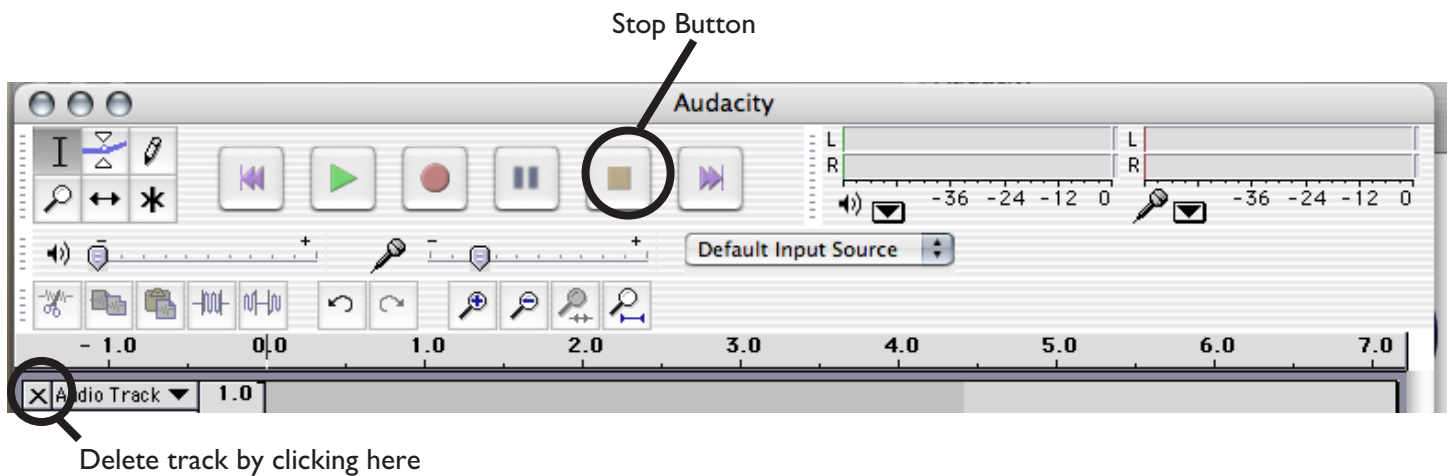
Finally, click on the “File Formats” tab and check that the Uncompressed Export Format is “AIFF (Apple/SGI 16 bit PCM)”. This is the proper setting for Macintosh uncompressed audio and will allow you to make audio CDs if desired.



Click “OK” once done configuring Audacity - you may not have had to make any changes. Close any existing files and go to *File > New* to open a new file. Click on the Record button in Audacity, then press play on your audio device. Check that the input levels (right set of meters) are around -12 db normally and do not pass 0 db when they peak. If necessary, adjust the input level control in Audacity or the output volume on your audio device.



Once you're happy that the controls are set correctly, stop playback and rewind your audio device to the desired starting point. Stop recording by clicking the Stop button in Audacity. Click the “X” at the top left of the test Audio Track to delete it.



With the audio input levels properly adjusted, click on the Record button (shown above) and start playback on your audio device. When you're finished recording the desired section of audio, click the Stop button in Audacity and save the file (*File > Save*). Audacity saves as .aup by default, which cannot be used in any other audio programs. You want to keep the .aup file as it's the original and can contain multiple tracks, but for use in Final Cut Pro, you want to export AIFF files.

To export the whole project as an AIFF file, go to *File > Export as AIFF...* If you only need a section of the project, highlight it by clicking and dragging in the waveforms so that a section is highlighted as shown below. Then choose *File > Export Selection as AIFF...*

