

REVIEW OF DIGITAL AUDIO FORMATS

LABEL	NAME	DESCRIPTION	PLATFORM
AIFF	Audio Interchange File Format	Standard Mac digital audio The AIFF (Audio Interchange File Format) was developed primarily for use on Macintosh computers. Mac-based professional digital audio recording systems and multimedia applications such as Adobe Premiere and Movie Player allow importing and exporting of AIFF files.	Mac, .aif
WAV	Wave file WAVE, .WAV .wav	Standard Windows digital audio The WAV format was developed by Microsoft for use on Intel-based computers. Professional PC-based digital audio recording and editing systems use WAV files as their standard, and it is expanding into the Mac world.	Windows & Mac, .wav
SND	Sound Designer 2	Digidesign Pro Tools, Format for Mac operating system sound	Mac, .snd
MP3	MPEG 1, layer 3 (layer 4 with Quicktime 6), Mac file type: Mp3, SwaT, MPEG, PLAY, MPG3, MP3. Extension: .mp3, ,swa	Compressed, audio for Internet MPEG is a file format that offers good quality and compression. The MP3 format is a type of MPEG compression that offers near-CD quality audio that uses about 10% of the storage space of a CD-Audio file. It is getting a lot of press lately because high quality recordings can be easily distributed over the World Wide Web.	Cross-platform, .mp3
RealAudio	RealAudio or RealMedia	Compressed, streaming audio for Internet	Cross-platform, .ra or .rm

AU	u-Law	Compressed, audio for Internet (older) The NeXT/Sun AU format is fairly prevalent on the Web, because it plays on the widest number of platforms, including Mac, PC, and UNIX systems, as long as the browser has appropriate plug-ins or helper applications available.	Cross-platform, .au
ACC		New format used by Apple's iTunes software	Macintosh, PC