

# MP3 Files for Tape Groups

## Cassette Tapes

- Limited capacity
- Bulky
- Hard to position
- Difficult to rewind
- Difficult to organize
- Must turn tape over
- Quality degrades
- Hard to copy

## MP3 Files

- HUGE capacity
- Very compact
- Instant random access
- Instant precise rewind
- Easy to organize
- Unlimited recording
- Maintains Quality
- Easy & FAST to copy

## Required Equipment

### Hardware

- Laptop 300 Mhz
  - CD drive
  - Flash Drive
- Patchbox/cables
- Amplified Speakers
- Remote Control (optional)

### Software

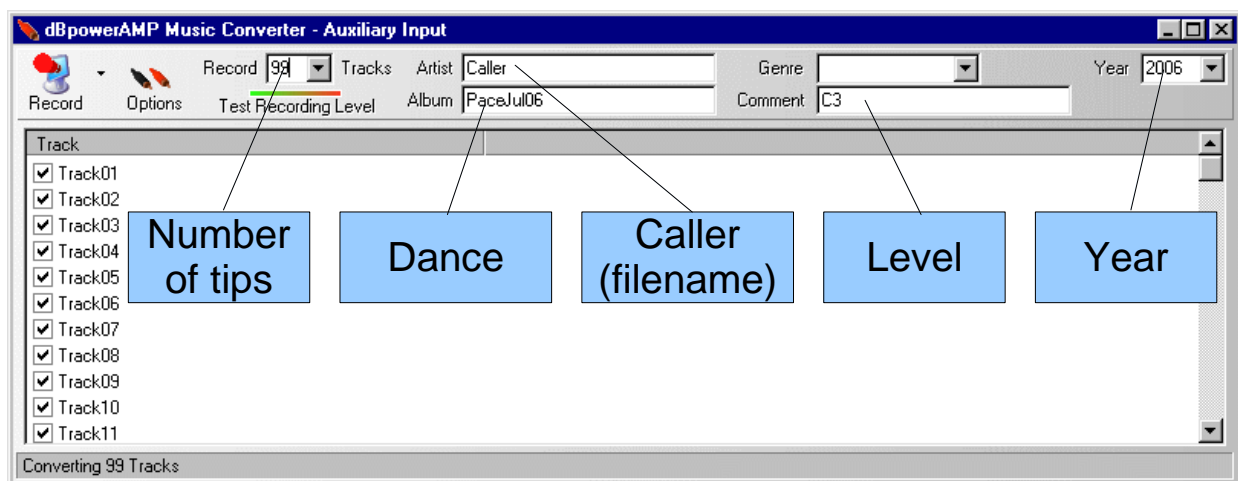
- dBpowerAMP Music Converter
- mp3DirectCut editor
- Utagit tag editor
- Winamp media player
- Wplayer
- RfRemote (optional)
- Visual CD (optional)

# Computer Sound Systems

Not very standardized

- Number of input jacks
  - Microphone
  - Line
  - Combined Line/Microphone
- How to enable/disable input sources
- Input levels required for Line or Microphone
- Stereo vs Mono input behavior
  - Might need Mono to Stereo adapter cable

## DMC Auxiliary Input



# DMC Auxiliary Input Options

The screenshot shows the 'dBpowerAMP Music Converter - Auxiliary Input' dialog box. The 'Options' button is circled in red. A 'dMC - Options' sub-dialog is open, showing settings for output location, file naming, and recording quality. Annotations include:

- Where to save files**: Points to the 'Output To' field, which is set to 'C:\My Documents\Recordings'.
- What to name files**: Points to the 'File Creation' field, which is set to '[artist][track number xx]'.
- Auto start/stop**: Points to the 'Auto Start Record After VU is Over' and 'Auto End When VU Drops Below' checkboxes, both of which are checked.
- Quality does NOTHING**: Points to the 'Quality' dropdown menu, which is set to '22.5 KHz'.

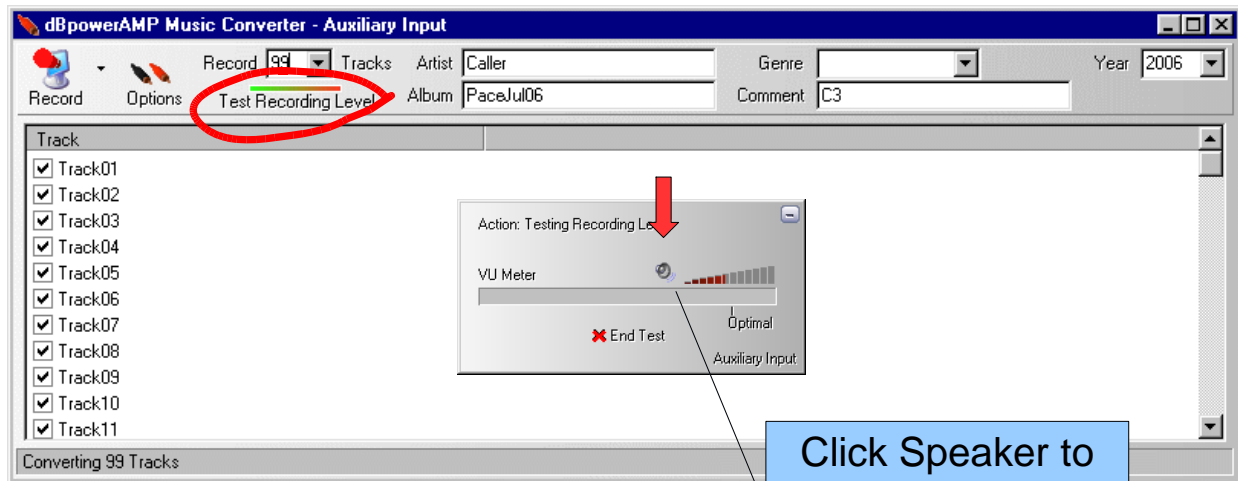
# Record (with options)

The screenshot shows the 'dBpowerAMP Music Converter - Auxiliary Input' dialog box with the 'Record' button circled in red. A 'dBpowerAMP Music Converter' sub-dialog is open, showing settings for MP3 encoding. Annotations include:

- Select MP3 Lame (default)**: Points to the 'Encoding: Constant Bitrate' dropdown menu.
- All Square Dance is mono**: Points to the 'Channels: Mono' dropdown menu.
- NEVER check this!**: Points to the 'Volume Normalize' checkbox, which is unchecked.
- Bit rate slider 32 Kbps (note 1)**: Points to the 'Bit Rate: 32 Kbps' slider.
- Sample rate 22050 (note 1)**: Points to the 'Frequency: 22050 Hz' dropdown menu.
- Change this in Options to make permanent**: Points to the 'Convert >>' button.

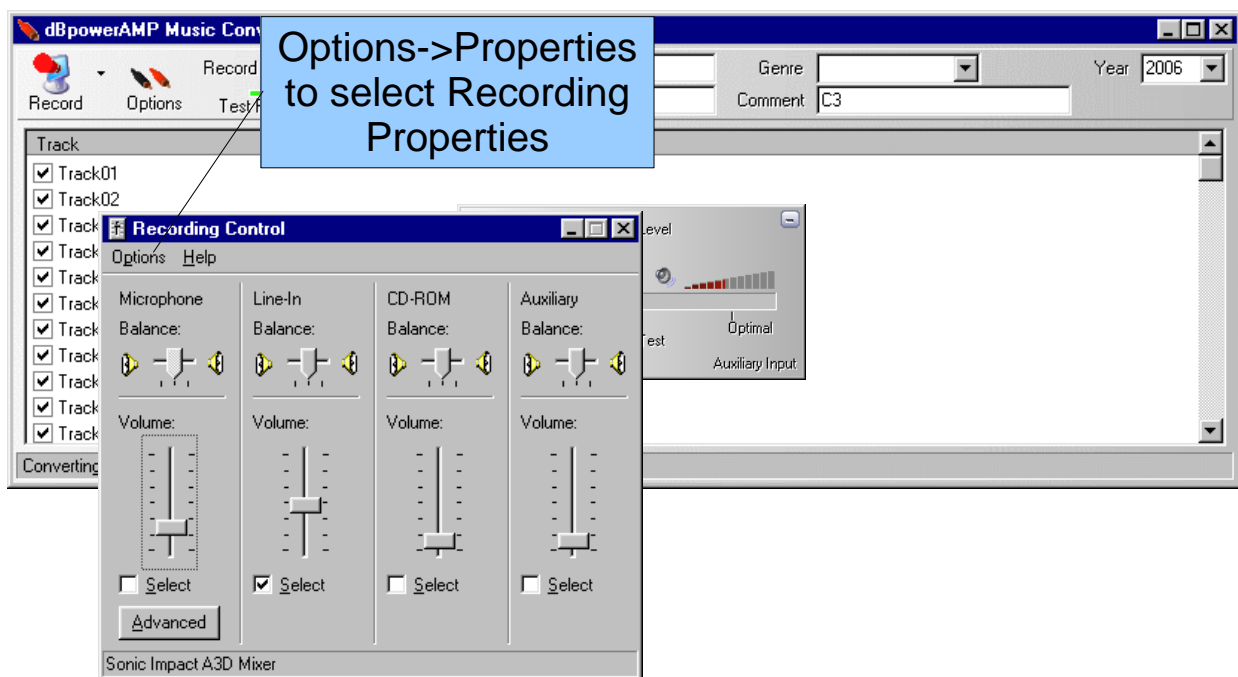
Note 1: These settings affect sound quality and file size. This gives cassette tape quality.

# Test Recording Level



Click Speaker to bring up Windows Recording Control

# Recording Control



Options->Properties to select Recording Properties

Sonic Impact A3D Mixer

# Recording Control Properties

The screenshot shows the 'Recording Control Properties' dialog box in dBpowerAMP Music Converter. The 'Recording' radio button is selected under 'Adjust volume for'. Under 'Show the following volume controls:', Telephone, Microphone, Line-In, and CD-ROM are all checked. A blue callout box points to the 'Recording' option with the text 'Make sure Recording is selected'. Another blue callout box points to the checked volume control boxes with the text 'Check boxes for ALL volume controls'. A third blue callout box points to the 'OK' button with the text 'OK'.

# Recording Control

The screenshot shows the 'Recording Control' dialog box in dBpowerAMP Music Converter. It displays volume sliders for Telephone, Microphone, and Line-In. A blue callout box points to the 'Select' checkboxes for these inputs with the text 'Select ONLY the input you will use (Line or Microphone)'. The 'Line-In' 'Select' checkbox is checked, while the others are unchecked.

Some computers allow multiple inputs to be selected at same time!

# Recording Control Properties

The screenshot shows the 'Recording Control Properties' dialog box in dBpowerAMP Music Converter. The dialog has a 'Mixer device' dropdown set to 'Sonic Impact A3D Mixer'. Under 'Adjust volume for', the 'Recording' radio button is selected. Below, under 'Show the following volume controls:', the 'Line-In' checkbox is checked, while 'Telephone', 'Microphone', and 'CD-ROM' are unchecked. The 'OK' button is highlighted with a blue callout box.

Options->Properties again

Uncheck all boxes except the one you are using

OK

# Recording Control

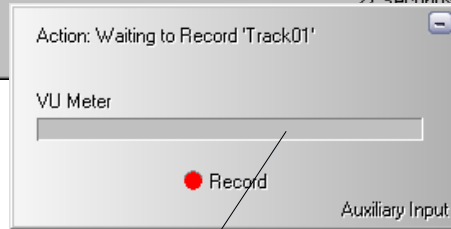
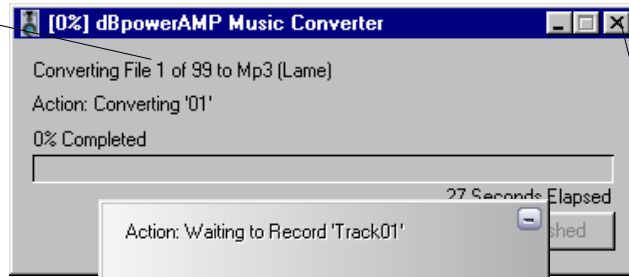
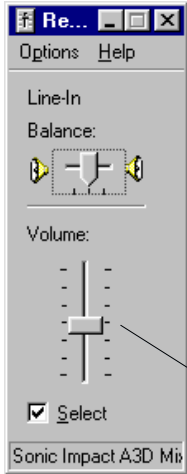
The screenshot shows the 'Recording Control' dialog box in dBpowerAMP Music Converter. The 'Line-In' checkbox is checked. A 'Recording Control' window is open, showing a 'VU Meter' with a red bar indicating the recording level. The 'End Test' button is highlighted with a blue callout box.

You now have single volume control

Adjust volume level and click End Test

# Recording

Count "tips" recorded

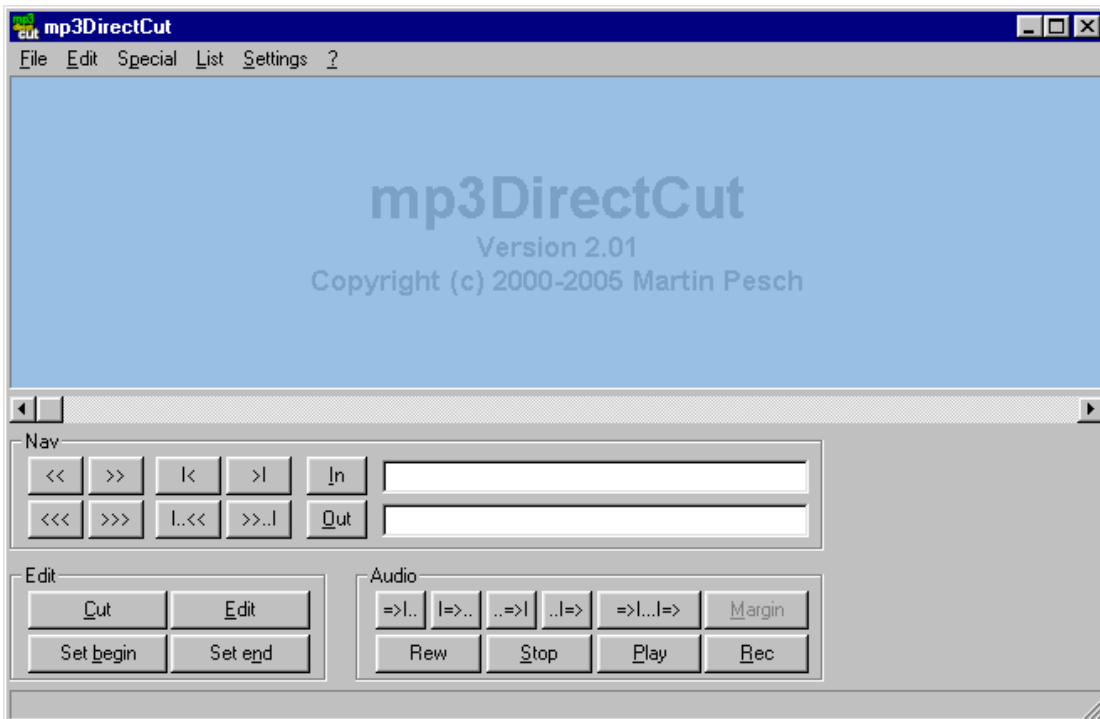


Recording level (peaks 1/2 to 2/3)

Adjust level

Close window to stop recording

# mp3DirectCut





# Mp3DirectCut Select Start



File Edit Special List Settings ?

Drag and Drop to open MP3 file

Click and Drag to select

Spacebar toggles Play/Stop to listen

Nav  
Total: 9'59.88 Now: 0'46.89 (7%)  
Selection: 0'00.00 - 0'45.74 (0'45.74)

Edit  
Cut Edit  
Set begin Set end

Audio  
=>|.. |=>.. ..=>| ..|=> =>|...|=> Margin  
Rew Stop Play Rec

MPEG2.0 Layer 3, 32 kbps, 22 kHz, Mono



# Mp3DirectCut Cut Start



File Edit Special List Settings ?

Selection vanishes!

Edit will bring it back

Nav  
Total: 9'14.14 Now: 0'01.15 (0%)  
Range (1/1): 0'00.00 - 9'14.14 (9'14.14)

Edit  
Cut Edit  
Set begin Set end

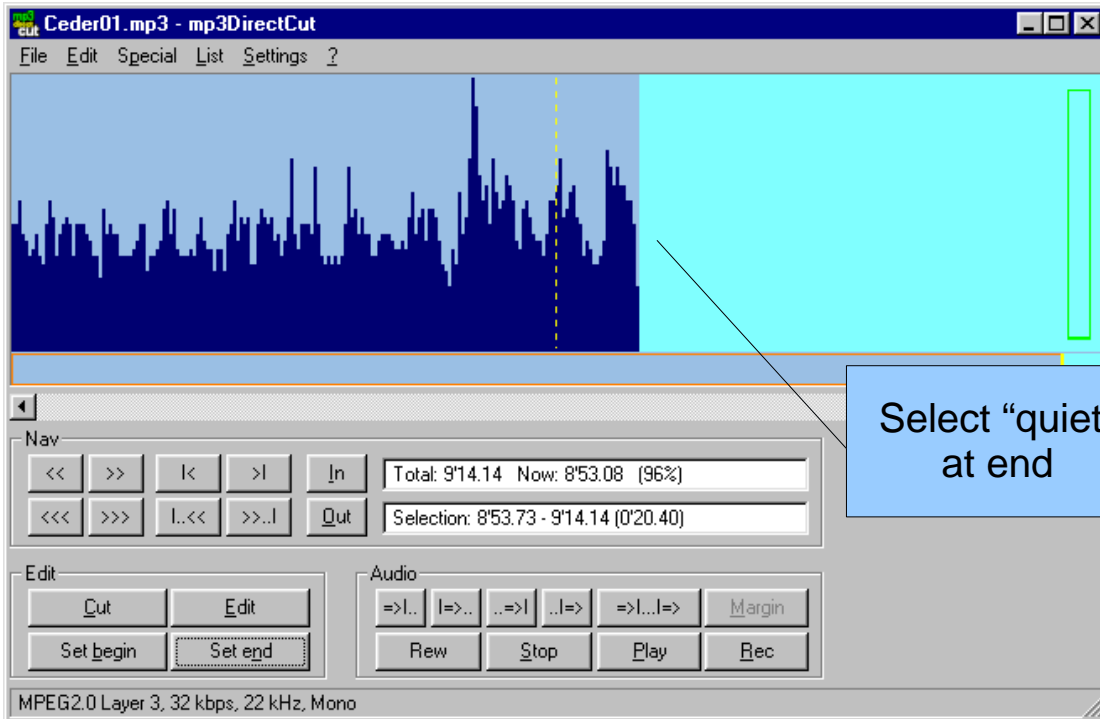
Audio  
|...|=> Margin  
Play Rec

MPEG2.0 Layer 3, 32 kbps, 22 kHz, Mono

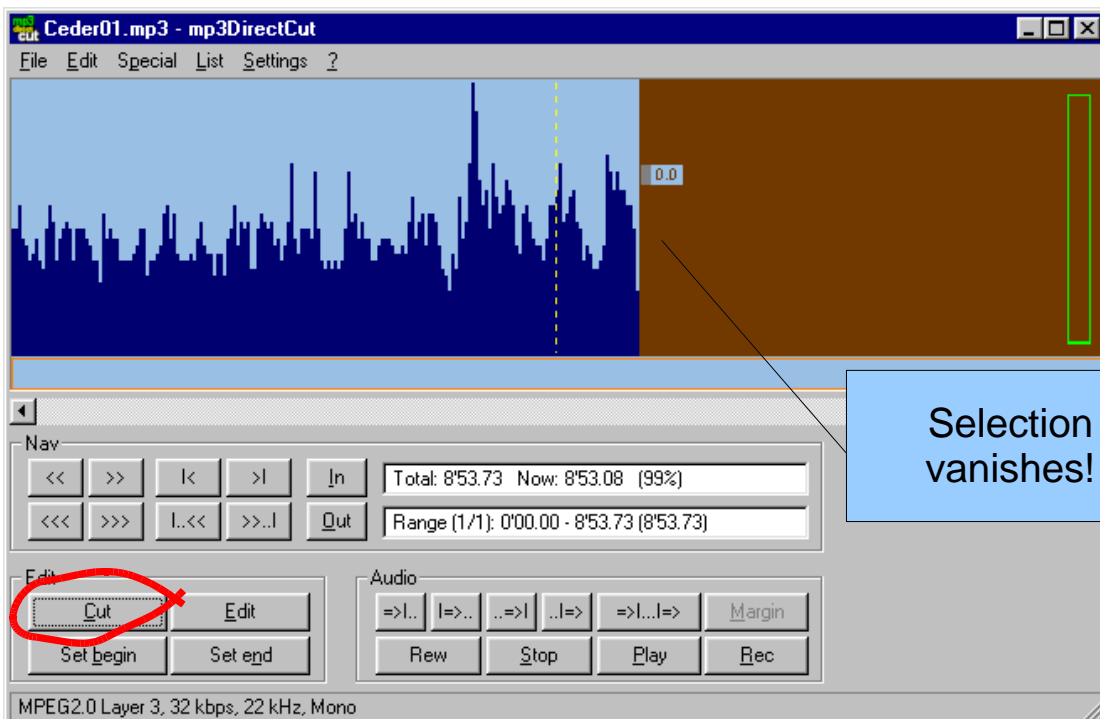




# Mp3DirectCut Select End

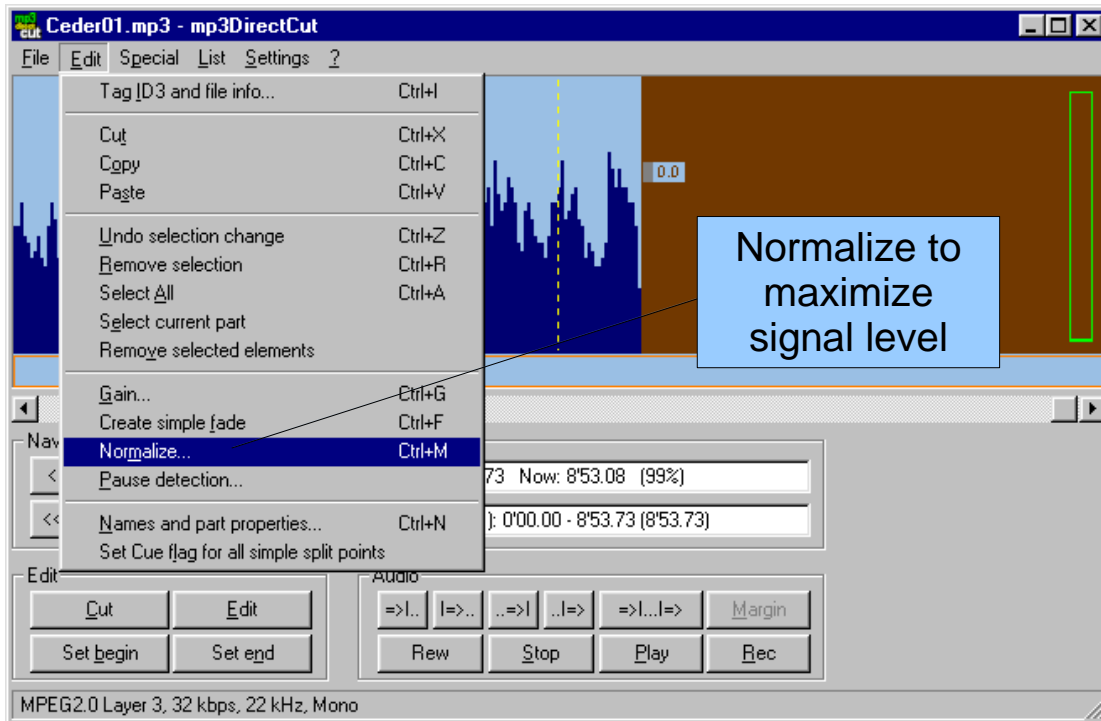


# Mp3DirectCut Cut End

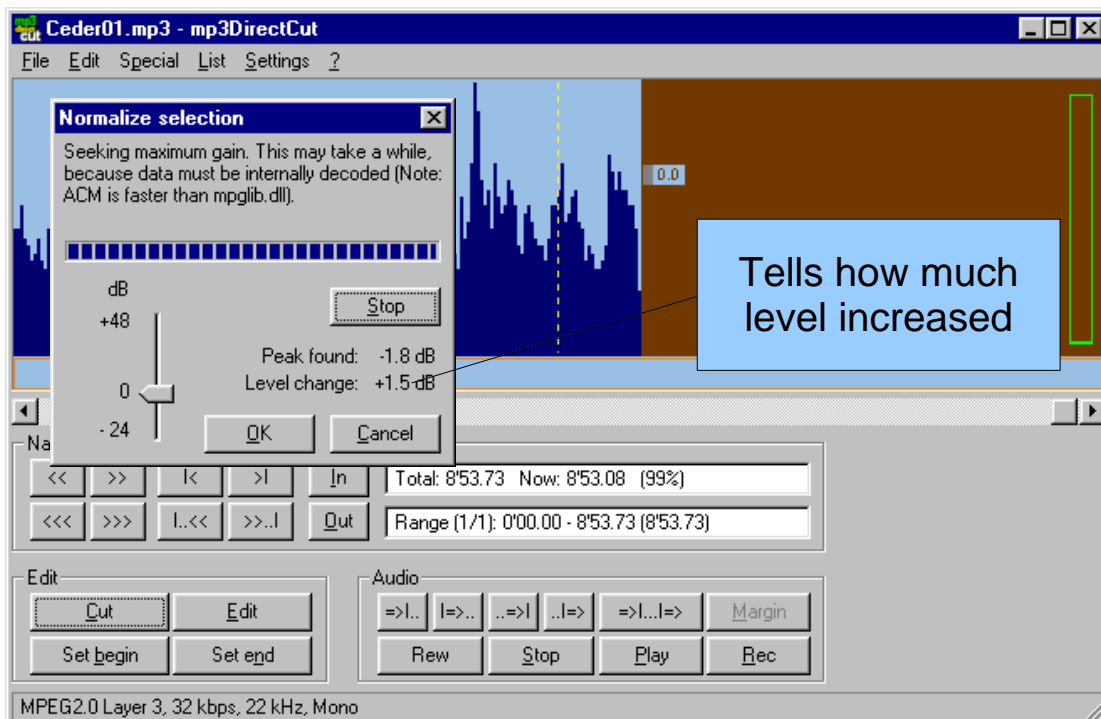




# Mp3DirectCut Cut Start

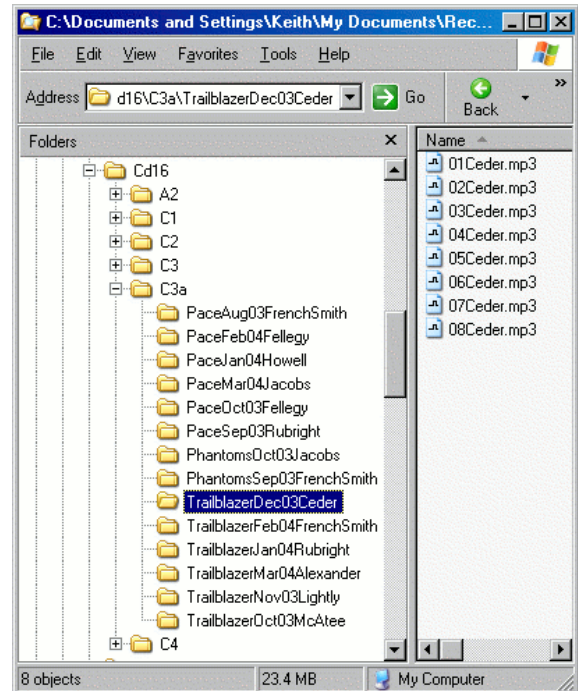


# Mp3DirectCut Cut End

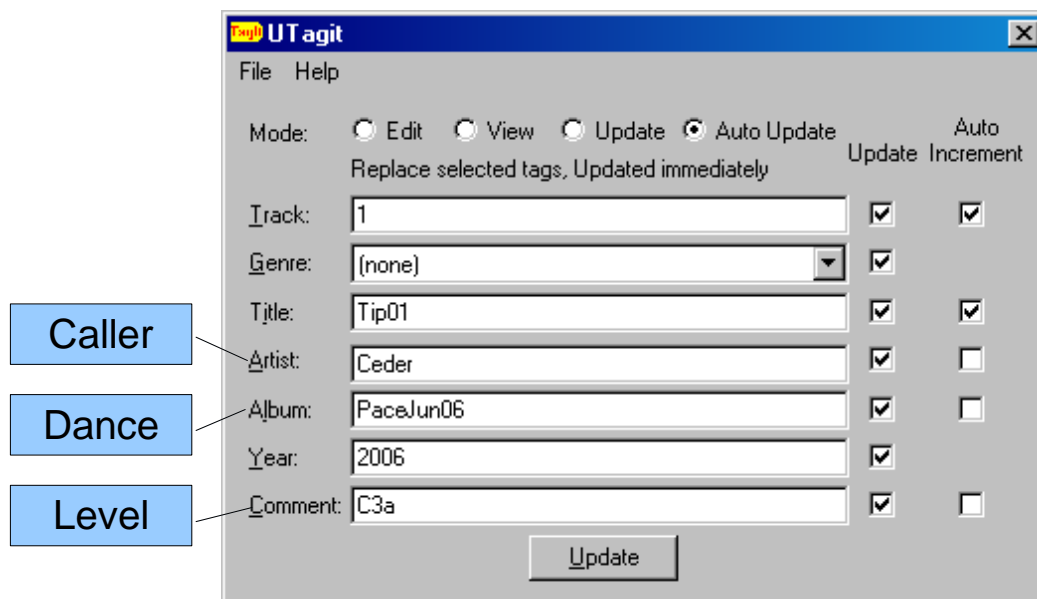


# Keeping MP3 Files Organized

- File naming convention
- Folder naming
- Organize by Level, Dance, Caller
- Searching
- MP3 ID3v1 Tags
- Keep Backups
- Keep Backups
- Keep Backups



## TagIt UTagit TagIt

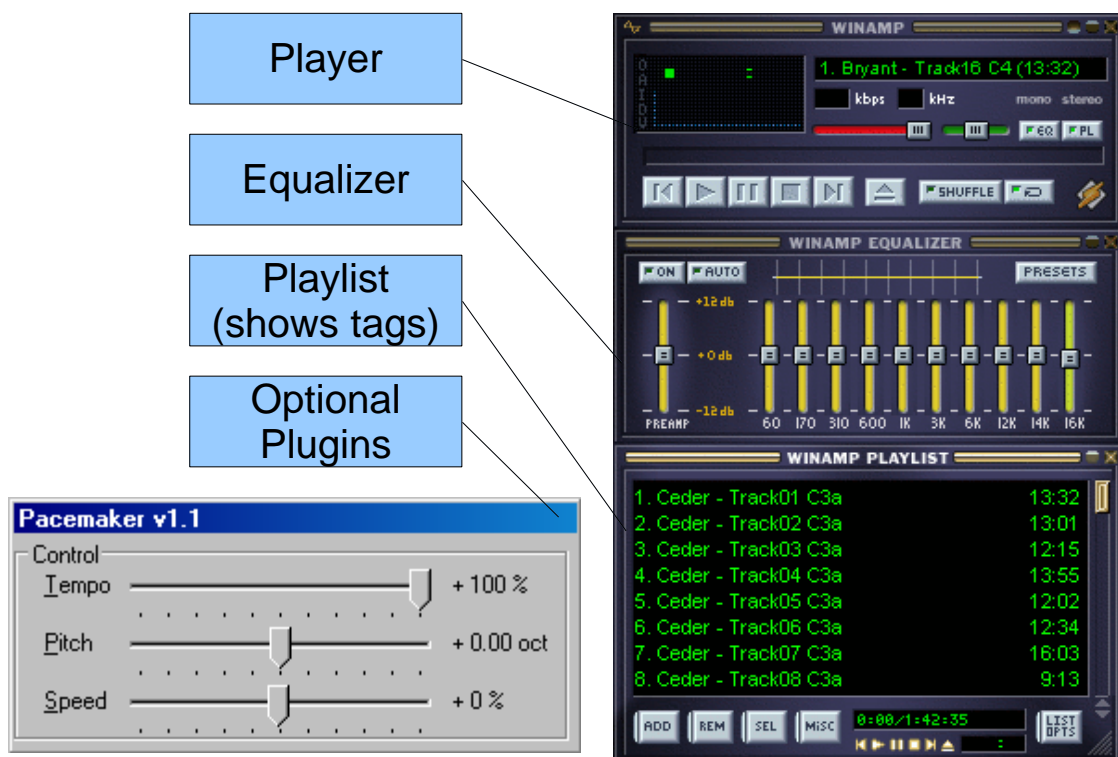


Drag and Drop files onto Utagit window to edit the MP3 ID3v1 tags.

# MP3 ID3v1 Tags

- Permanently label files with useful data
  - Artist (caller)
  - Album (dance)
  - Comment (level, etc.)
  - Year
- Windows Explorer can display tags in columns
- Programs can search based on tags
- Identifies file even if moved to wrong folder
- Media players can display MP3 tag information

## Winamp



# ⚡ Wplayer ⚡

The screenshot shows the Wplayer application window with the following details:

- Position from start of file:** A callout box pointing to the 'Position' field, which displays '10:50'.
- Position from Zero:** A callout box pointing to the 'Counter' display, which shows '0:12'.
- Buttons and keyboard shortcuts for most functions:** A callout box pointing to the control panel containing buttons for Play/Pause, Zero, 5 Seconds, Last Tip, Tip Timer, Rewind, 5 Seconds, and Next Tip.
- Time left in tip:** A callout box pointing to the 'Tip Timer' display, which shows '11:47'.
- Visual indication at end of tip:** A callout box pointing to the 'Sound Off' indicator.

## ⚡ Wplayer Features ⚡

- “Tape” counter to mark start of sequence
- Instant rewind back to zero
- Tip timer, reminds you when to rotate dancers in
- Auto backup after pause (never miss a word)
- Convenient keyboard shortcuts (e.g. Spacebar for play/pause)
- Resumes at last zero when file opened again
- Programmable tip timer sound (have fun)
- BIG position and timer displays, easy to read

# Wplayer and Winamp Operation

- Add files to Winamp playlist (drag/drop files/folders)
- Save Winamp playlist file (m3u file)
- Open playlist with Wplayer (Play->Open Playlist)
- Save tape group file with Wplayer (File->Save As)
- Now Wplayer will remember last zero position when it is closed.
- Open tape group file (grp file) with Wplayer, or drag and drop grp file to Wplayer, and it resumes from where you left off
- Keep multiple playlists and tape group files. Wplayer knows where you left off on each one!



## RF Remote Control



- RF overcomes line-of-sight problems of IR remote controls
- No one needed to sit and run the computer
- No problem if there are only 8 people
- Play/Pause, skip Forward/Back, Zero, Rewind, Tip Timer all controlled by remote control
- Receiver connects via USB
- Transmitter attaches to belt
- Compatible with Windows 98 through XP
- General purpose, control any Windows application