Subject: Old tape recorder to digital
Posted by Floyd on Wed, 25 Jul 2018 19:53:39 GMT
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My aunt has given me an old tape recorder that was popular with teenagers in the seventies. It has some old piano music on it that was played by some of my older relatives.

Any bright ideas about the best way to get this music onto digital so I can share it around the family members?

Subject: Re: Old tape recorder to digital
Posted by gofar99 on Wed, 25 Jul 2018 21:36:51 GMT
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Hi, Since it is analog you will need to make it play to copy it to digital. Most PCs have an audio input of some sort. It will be either line level or mic level. Line is the better choice. The problem is whether or not the tape player has a suitable output. Many have line outputs and that would be the choice to use. A direct connection from them to the line inputs on a PC. Other devices can also have audio inputs (phones, tablets etc) and will also work to varying degrees. If there is no line output on the tape player then it may have an earphone output and you can try that with the line inputs on the recording device. Depending on the quality of the audio from the tape player you can often adjust the recording on the PC (etc). I would not go below 24/96 for the resulting files. A program such as Audacity (free BTW) on a PC makes editing easy. You can also clean up the sound a bit. Once the file is digital it is easy to send to other folks.

Subject: Re: Old tape recorder to digital
Posted by JazzHog on Tue, 07 Aug 2018 17:17:09 GMT
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Thankyou for mentioning Audacity, gofar99, I may take a look at that. It sounds like it might be useful for some of my little pet projects. It's good to see that it's free and open source.

I think there used to be a course in sound technology at my local tech, but I'm not sure if it still exists, (or probably now it's really expensive to do!).

Subject: Re: Old tape recorder to digital
Posted by Junior on Thu, 09 Aug 2018 02:50:25 GMT
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What is the difference between the bit rates? I used Audacity before. I set the bit rate to 320 Kbps thinking that it is the best quality. Is this a good practice?

Subject: Re: Old tape recorder to digital
Posted by gofar99 on Thu, 09 Aug 2018 22:37:15 GMT
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What format was the 320? It sounds like you were making MP3s. I use Audacity to make 24/96 wav copies of vinyl and use that with a high quality external sound card to put onto tape...just opposite of what you are doing. If the original tapes you have are only modest quality then MP3 is probably OK. Some of the other formats might make better copies though.

Subject: Re: Old tape recorder to digital
Posted by Junior on Wed, 15 Aug 2018 06:38:17 GMT
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Oh, I'm sorry about that. You were right that I was referring to MP3. I didn't think you were making a "wav" file. We were using the same software, but different outputs.