

# Flac Frontend

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FLAC Frontend is an easy-to-use GUI FLAC interface for Windows users. It is very much like mkwACT for SHN, with drag-and-drop usage.

First, you must download and install the FLAC Tools for Windows from <http://mikewren.com/flac>. After you install, you must launch FLAC Frontend by either doubleclicking on the desktop icon, or going: **Start > Programs > FLAC > FLAC Frontend**.

## **Decompressing .flac to .wav**

To decompress .flac files to .wav files, open windows explorer and highlight the files you want to decompress. Then drag and drop those files into FLAC frontend:

Before you convert the .flac files to .wav, be sure to choose where you want the .wav files to be saved to by choosing the "Output Directory" at the bottom of the FLAC Frontend window. Also, choose if you want to delete the input (.flac) file by checking (or unchecking) the "Delete input files" option.

Once you have set your options, convert your .flac files to .wav by clicking the "Decode" button:

A DOS window will now open, showing you the decoding status:

NOTE: FLAC will automatically verify each .flac file before it decompresses it to .wav, so running "Test" prior to decompressing is unnecessary.

## **Encoding .wav to .flac**

To encode .wav files to .flac files, review the [FlacFaq](#) and adjust your settings. Then, open Windows Explorer and highlight the files you want to compress. Then drag and drop those files into FLAC Frontend:

If you are using Windows 95B, it is possible that the drag and drop feature will not function properly. In this case, simply click the `Add Files` button and browse for the files you want to compress.

Before you convert the `.wav` files to `.flac`, be sure to choose where you want the `.flac` files to be saved to by choosing the "Output Directory" at the bottom of the FLAC Frontend window. Be sure to check the `Verify` box. Also, choose if you want to delete the input (`.wav`) file by checking (or unchecking) the "Delete input files" option.

Once you have set your options, convert your `.wav` files to `.flac` by clicking the "Encode" button:

A DOS window will now open, showing you the encoding status:

NOTE: FLAC will automatically compute and add checksumming data (called a FLAC Fingerprint) to each `.flac` file it encodes, so there is no need to create a separate `.md5` file!

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Your `.wav` editing software (Sound Forge, Cool Edit, CD Wave, WaveLab, etc.) may have added extra unnecessary data in the header of the `.wav` file. If this is the case, the FLAC encoding DOS box warning will be displayed:

```
WARNING: skipping unknown sub-chunk 'LIST'
```

Don't worry about it... the FLAC encoder is just telling you that there's extra, unnecessary junk in your `.wav` file, and because FLAC is so cool, it's just skipping it.

## **Advanced: Creating a FLAC Fingerprint File with FLAC Frontend**

You can easily create a FLAC Fingerprint file using FLAC Frontend. For more information about what the heck a FLAC Fingerprint is, visit [FlacFingerprint](#).

To create a FLAC Fingerprint text (`.txt`) file with FLAC Frontend, drag and drop the `.flac` files you want a Fingerprint for into FLAC Frontend:

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As of right now (8/8/2002, Installer v1.0.3beta4), in FLAC Frontend

v1.6.0 Alpha there is a bug that only allows you to create a FLAC Fingerprint from one directory at a time. If you have `.flac` files that live in more than one directory, do each directory one at a time. If you try to do more than one directory at a time, it may work, or it may not... but you won't receive an error message if it fails.

After you've dragged and dropped the `.flac` files you wish to create a Fingerprint for into FLAC Frontend, click the "Fingerprint" button.

Clicking the "Fingerprint" button will pop up a 'Save To' dialog box, prompting you where you want to save your Fingerprint `.txt` file to. The default directory is the FLAC directory in your windows direcorey (for Windows 95/98/XP users: `c:\windows\flac`, for Windows NT/2000 users: `c:\winnt\flac`). You can choose to save your FLAC Fingerprint `.txt` file wherever you want (just don't forget).

## Advanced: Adding Extra Data to FLAC files

Via ID3 tags. See [FlacMetadata](#).

## Advanced: Fixing Sector Boundaries

The sector align feature of Flac Frontend now works in v.1.7.1. See a comparison of Frontend vs. shntool in [\[this thread\]](#), 10/2004 posting.

*See also:* [FLAC](#), [FlacFingerprint](#), [FlacFaq](#), [SeedingGuidelines](#)

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