

Making Your Own Wav Files

It's easier than you might think

For those of you with a desire to make your own wav files but don't know how to go about it, let me assure you that the basics are very simple. On the back of almost every VCR or stereo is an output socket labeled "Audio Out." On your computer sound card you will likely find three "mini" sockets. One is labeled "Audio out" (this is the socket your computer speakers should be plugged into). One is labeled "Line In" and the other is labeled "Mic."

You'll need to go to Radio Shack, or a similar electronics store, and buy an audio patch cord and a mini-jack adapter. In most cases, if you tell the store clerk what you are trying to do, they can fix you up with what you need. Your total out of pocket expense should only be a few bucks. Before you buy, consider what length of cord you will need (my computer is across the room from my VCR and stereo so I got a twenty five footer).

Attach the mini-jack adapter to one end of the audio patch cord and plug it into the "Line In" socket on your computer sound card. Plug the other end of the cord into the "Audio out" socket on your stereo or VCR. You now have an audio feed to your computer. If you are plugged into your VCR, and have it turned on, you should be hearing the same sound over your computer speakers that is coming from your TV (via the VCR). You can also use a microphone plugged into your computer sound card "Mic" socket to record your own voice. If you don't have a mic, you can buy one that works just fine for ten or fifteen bucks. Do not use the mic to record sounds from your TV or stereo speakers. That method produces poor results.

The last thing you'll need is some sound software. Most computers come with some form of this software already installed. But to be quite honest, the sound software that came bundled with my computer is about as versatile as a door bell. Fortunately, great sound software is available for downloading on the Web. Two programs that work well in this area are [Goldwave](#) and [CoolEdit](#). If you don't want to use my links right now, typing either of those two names into any search engine will get you the URL's to download from.

Both programs are pretty user friendly and won't require visits to the help file to get started. However, I would advise that you get familiar with some of the higher functions of whichever program you choose fairly quickly. You can have a lot of fun using the editing capabilities with these programs once you get to know them.

There you have it. Your favorite TV show, movie or music wavs are just waiting to be made. You're only limited by your imagination. To give a listen to one possible use of this information, download my [brnyfans.wav](#) (137k). I had a great deal of fun making that clip using bits from movies, TV, sound effects and my own voice. It shows what you can do with these programs. Have fun and let me know when you put up your own wav pages on the Web. I like to hear the wavs other folks are making too.
