

Creating Backing Tracks from Existing Recordings

While you can use ready-made backing tracks to sing along to, if you like a particular arrangement or would like to sing along to the original song recording, it's quite simple to separate instrumental from vocal tracks on a Windows PC or laptop using Audacity (free sound editing software) and an AI plugin called OpenVINO.

'But I don't know the first thing about audio editing!' you might be saying at this point. You don't need to. The process of separating instrumental from vocal tracks is simple, and we'll take you through it step by step.

First, save the sound file (mp3 or another format) to a place on your PC or laptop where you can find it easily.

Then download Audacity (if you don't already have it):

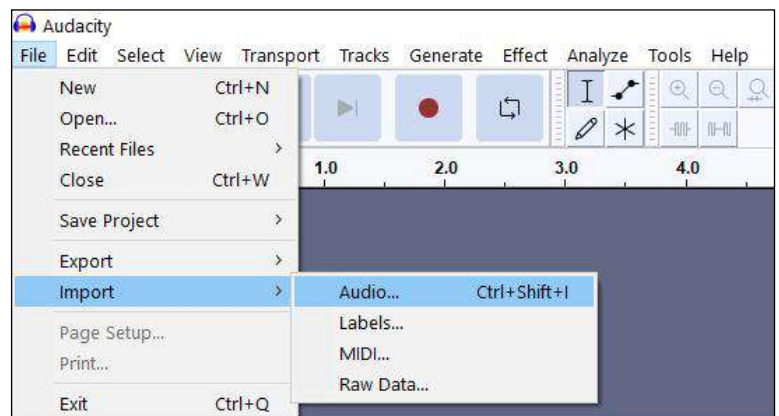
1. Go to the [Audacity website](#) and download the version of Audacity for your PC or laptop's operating system.
2. Go to your downloads folder, where you will find the Audacity file. Click or double-click on to install Audacity and follow the instructions.

Then download and activate the plugin:

1. Go to the [OpenVINO plugin page](#) on GitHub.
2. Under Download, click on and download the Windows installer:
audacity-win-v3.7.1-R4.1-64bit-OpenVINO-AI-Plugins.exe
3. Go to the Downloads folder of your PC or laptop, click on the installer and follow the directions.
4. Open Audacity.
5. The plugin should already be connected to Audacity and activated, but in case it isn't, click on Edit in the top menu, then on Preferences at the bottom of the dropdown menu and then on Modules near the bottom of the next menu. Check to see if mod-openvino is enabled. If not, enable it, click OK and close Audacity.

Then launch Audacity again and import your file:

1. Click on File on the upper right corner, the select Import from the dropdown list that appears, then select Audio from the second dropdown list that appears.
2. Find your audio file and import it.



Then separate the track:

1. Select the entire music track using your mouse or by clicking on the time bar just above the track.
2. Click on Effect in the top menu, then on OpenVINO AI Effects in the dropdown menu and then on OpenVINO Music Separation in the second dropdown.
3. A screen will appear with two separation modes: (2 Stem) Instrumental, Vocals and (4 Stem) Drums, Bass, Vocals, Others. In other words, the modes analyse the track and separate it into either two tracks or four (or more) tracks. Select the 2 Stem mode and click OK.
4. When the track has been separated, you will see the full track at the top, followed by an instrumental track and a vocals track:



5. The X in the upper left corner of the box to the left of each track allows you to delete it. Delete the full track and the vocals track, leaving only the instrumental track.
6. Click on File in the upper menu, then Export Audio in the dropdown.
7. To start with, it's very important to give your exported file a new name. You don't want to run the risk of saving a backing track over the original song! We suggest naming it '[Song Title] – Backing Track' (or 'Accompaniment').
8. You can then decide the format to save your file in. If the original song was an MP3 file, then it's best to save it in the same format. But there are also different levels, in terms of quality, of MP3 files. We suggest selecting either Standard or Extreme in the Quality box. You can also edit the file's metadata (songwriter, album, etc.) by clicking on the Edit Metadata button in the bottom left corner. Be sure to include 'Backing Track' in the title box of the Metadata as well.
9. Save your backing track and use it!

If your backing track isn't the right pitch for you, or if it's a little too fast or a little too slow, then these can also be easily adjusted with Audacity. See our other information sheet, **Changing the Pitch and Tempo of Backing Tracks**, for detailed instructions on how to do this.