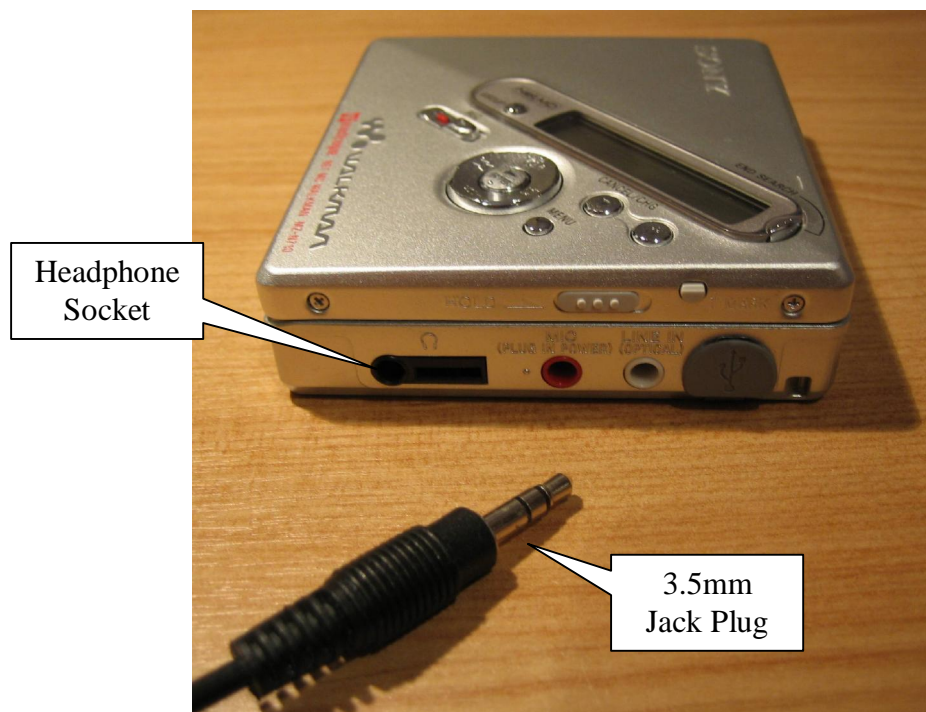


Transferring recordings from your Minidisc player to your PC

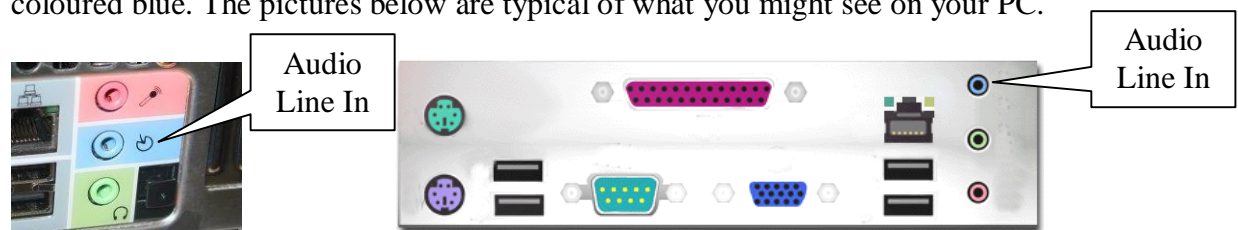
This is a short guide to explain what to do if you have recorded something on a Minidisc player and you want to put it onto a CD

There are several different Minidisc machines on the market, so the method described here is designed to work with all models.

Using a 1/8 inch or 3.5mm jack plug, connect the headphone socket of your Minidisc player to the line-in socket of your PC. This will allow the sound from the Minidisc to be 'heard' by your PC. You can buy a suitable cable from places like Dixons or PC World. It's probably worth noting that this guide assumes you're using a desktop PC and not a laptop. The principals are the same for a laptop, but you might need to use the mic-in socket instead.

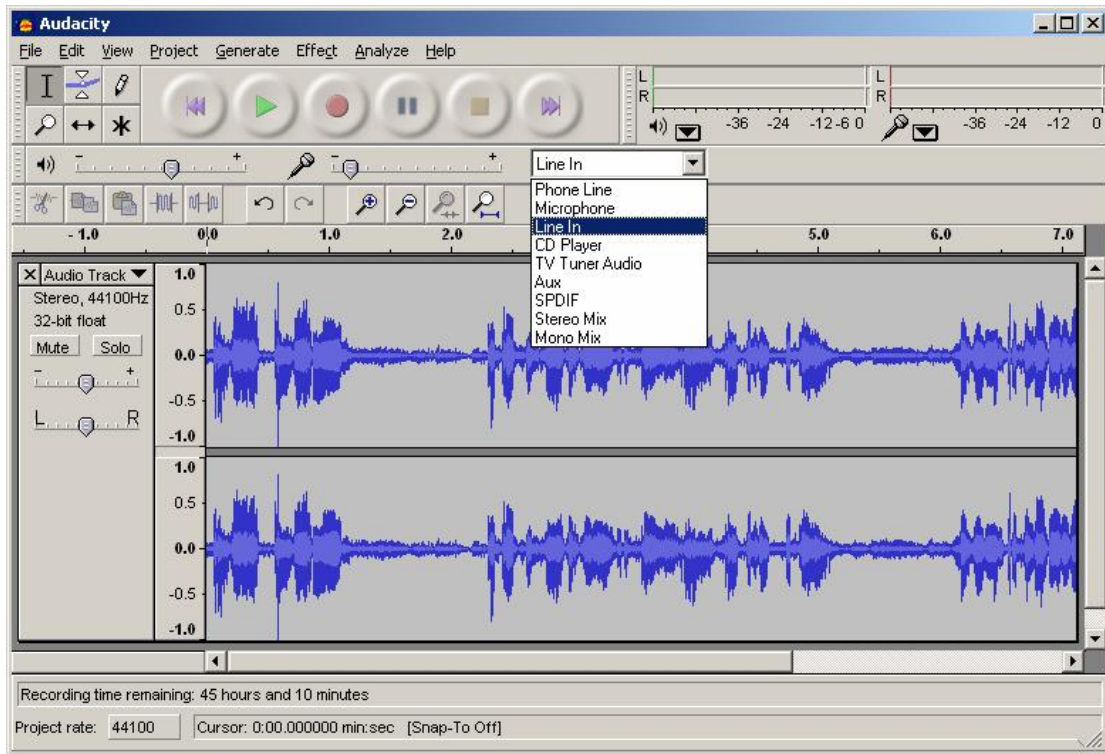


The line-in socket of your PC might be called 'Audio Line In' and it's usually coloured blue. The pictures below are typical of what you might see on your PC.

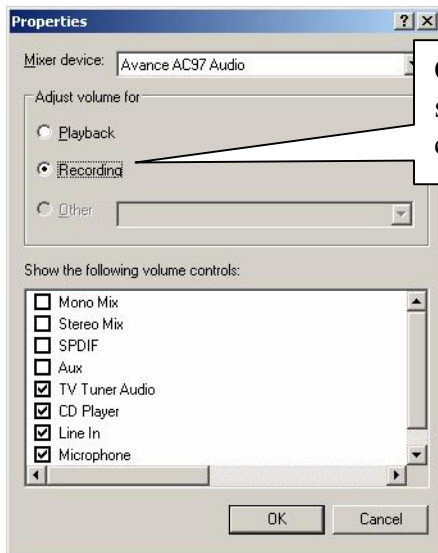


You will then need some software to record the sounds from your Minidisc onto your PC. You might have your own favourites such as Cool Edit Pro, or Adobe Audition. But you can also download a piece of free software called 'Audacity' from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

All of the software has the look and feel of a traditional cassette recorder, with stop, play and record buttons. The first thing to do is to open a new (blank) file.

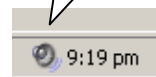


To record from your Minidisc ensure you have 'line-in' selected in your Windows sound control options (see below). To do this you'll need to select 'recording control' in 'options', (not playback control).



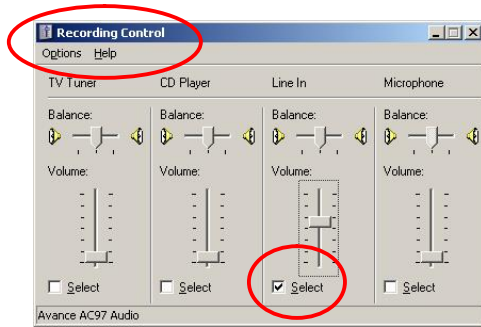
Check this button to see the recording controls

Sound control button looks like a little loud speaker

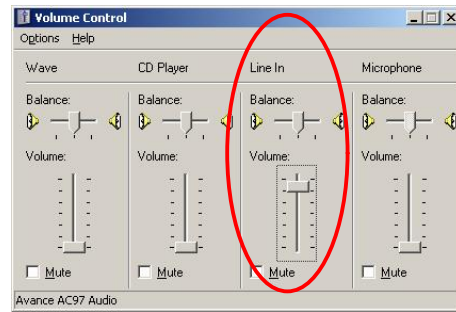


The sound control button looks like a little loud speaker in your system tray (near the clock), or you can get to it via the Windows control panel. If you're using Audacity, also choose 'Line In' in the drop down list (see above).

To listen to your Minidisc you'll need to have the 'line-in' turned up in the Volume control (and your PC speakers turned on).



Recording Control



Playback Control

Click the 'record' button on the recording software (this probably looks like a red circle) and then press play on the Minidisc. You'll need to be able to hear your Minidisc through your PC loudspeakers so you'll know when to stop the recording. When the recording has finished, click 'stop' on the PC (a square).



Once you've recorded the songs onto your PC save them in a spot you'll remember and give them an appropriate name. You can save the songs in a number of different formats, but MP3 is probably the most useful and also takes up less space on your computer hard disk.



You can use all the various editing facilities your software package has to splice, trim, fade or amplify your songs. Depending on the software you use, you can even change wrong notes!

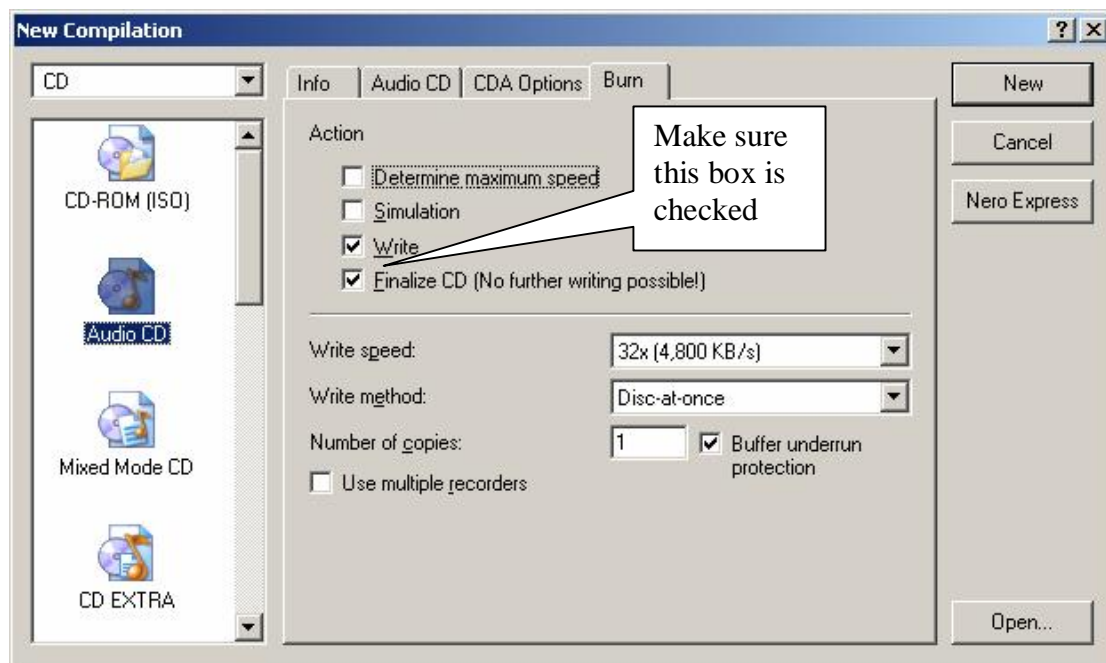
Once you've got all your files transferred from Minidisc and edited you're then ready to 'burn' these songs onto an audio CD.

Audio CD burning.

Windows XP does have its own software that allows you to create an audio CD, more details of how to do this can be found here, <http://tinyurl.com/37qmd>

Alternatively you can use the software that was supplied with your CD drive or PC, this is commonly Nero, www.nero.com or Easy Media Creator, www.roxio.com

Most good software will automatically convert your saved files from whatever format you've saved the files as into an audio CD version. This is done automatically when you burn the disc. It's important to remember to tell the burning software you want to create an **audio CD**, not a data CD. This is what Nero looks like:



The most common mistake when burning an Audio CD is to not 'finalize' the disc. This makes the disc playable by your home Hi-Fi, not just a PC.

There's lots more that can be said about transferring, editing and burning music to audio CDs and this short guide is intended to be just that – short!

For more information try looking on the web, or if all else fails, read the manuals.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the webmaster@sweetadelines.org.uk