Official /r/anime Sings Recording Tutorial

Welcome!

Seems like you decided to sing some songs for a /r/anime sings project! (or some other subreddit maybe) Welcome to the club. We went ahead a created a tutorial because it seems like the steps were confusing to many of you guys, and the "How to Record" on the project posts weren't really that descriptive.

If you are not from a project post and want to see if there are any projects going on right now, check out the wiki for all the projects we had/ are going to have!

We also have a discord server that can send notifications of projects, releases, and poll posts! If checking the wiki every day isn't your thing, check it out! We also have text channels where you can ask questions about pronunciation, other questions about recording, etc.

If you find any mistakes/typos/grammar mistakes, please PM /u/Tora_the_Tiger so we can fix any mistakes in the tutorial!
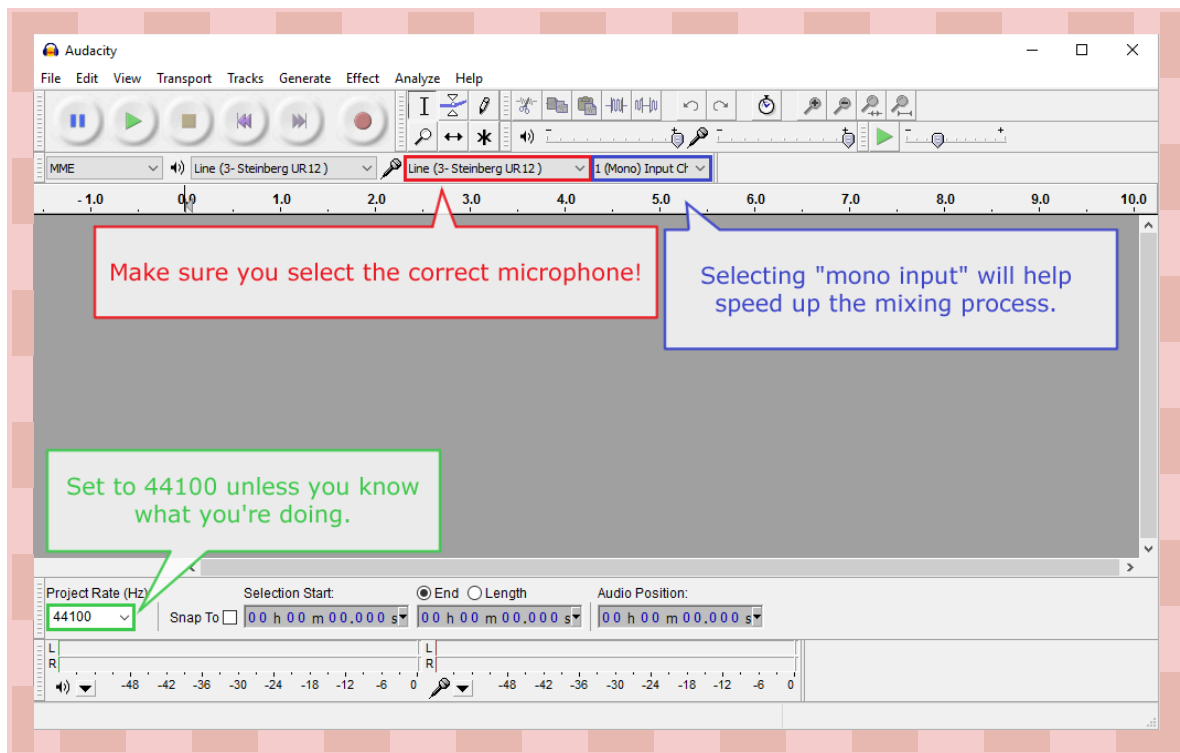
Table of Contents -

Before you Record

- Download Audacity
    - Download Audacity from [here](#), and install it on your computer!
    - This is not the only audio recording option, so if you have another software, feel free to use it.
- Connect Microphone
    - Connect your microphone! (Important step!)
    - Make sure your computer recognises the microphone, and you select the correct microphone for Audacity.
    - Select "(Mono) Input Channel" to record in mono. It will helps us with the mixing process if you do so :)
    - Set the Project Rate to 44100 Hz. Don't change unless you have a microphone that supports higher rates.

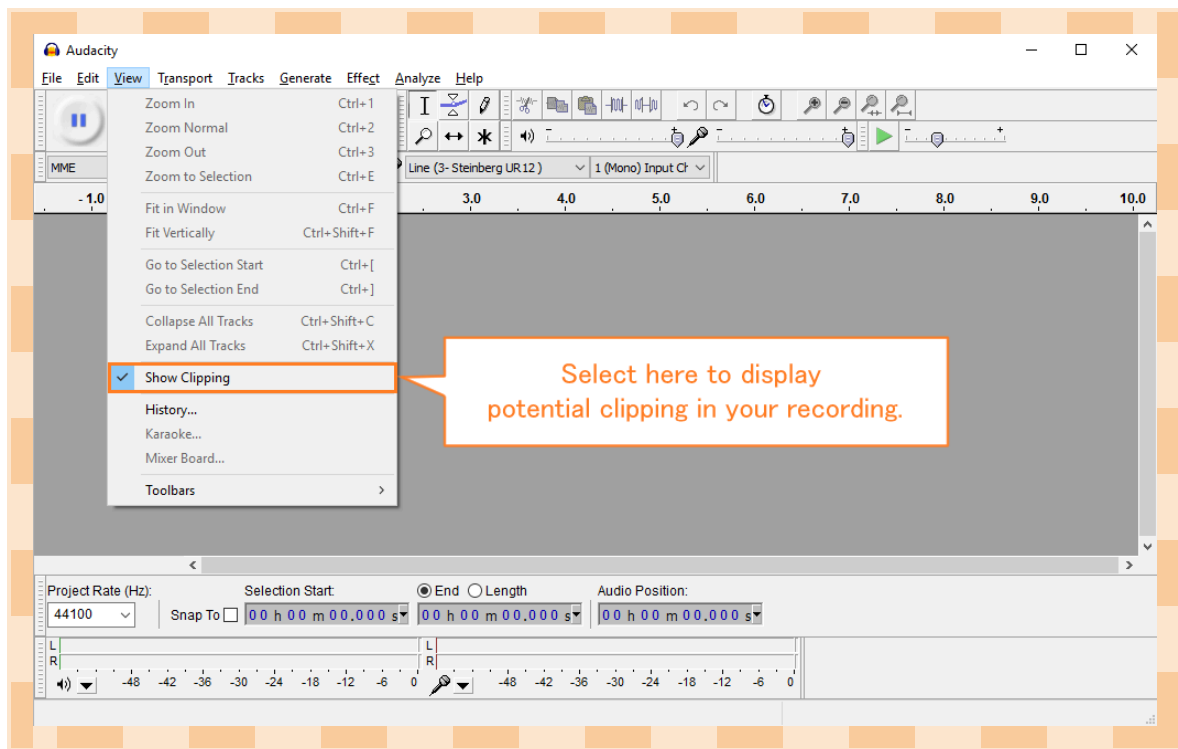- Read the reddit post and make sure you know what you're doing
    - The project organisers might have some specific instructions on what you're supposed to be doing! Make sure you check before you record.

- Download the audio file from the post
    - Some organisers have audio files in the original post. Please use them to prevent syncing issues!
- Prepare your soul
    - ~~Be ready to belt some fucking notes because it's gonna be tense as fuck.~~
    - Make sure you're ready to record! (No background noises, be physically ready, know how to pronounce the lyrics, etc.)
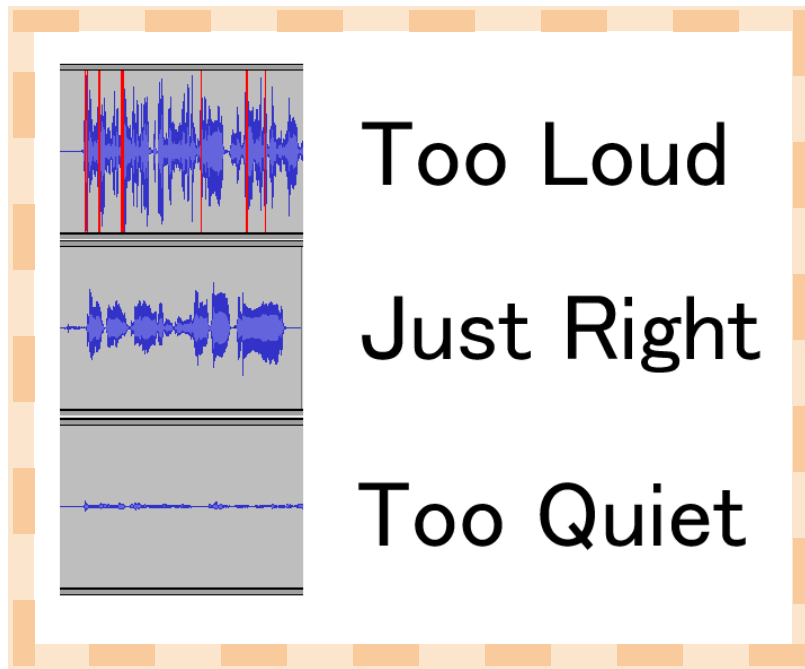   - **TL;DR Don't be like Hazuki in this picture.**

During the Recording

- Drag & Drop audio file in Audacity to prevent timing differences
    - [Drag & Drop the audio file](#) that you got from the project post, and drag it into Audacity.
    - When you record your audio, you can listen to the song while you record!
- Don't sing too close to your mic!
    - This is one mistake many people make! ~~(Tora did too. And he didn't care and submitted his audio anyways :P)~~ Nobody heard that
    - Make sure you aren't too close to the microphone when you sing. It can lead to…
        - Unnecessary breaths getting in the way of the singing
        - Audio clipping
        - Audio distortion
        - Crappier projects (lol who cares)
    - You can see if your audio file is clipping by selecting the View > "**Show Clipping**" option in Audacity. The clipping will show up in a red color.

- Please make sure you have a moderately loud recording. Please adjust your microphone for a nice recording. Here's an example below for what is good.

- Sing/shout random crap in the instrumental
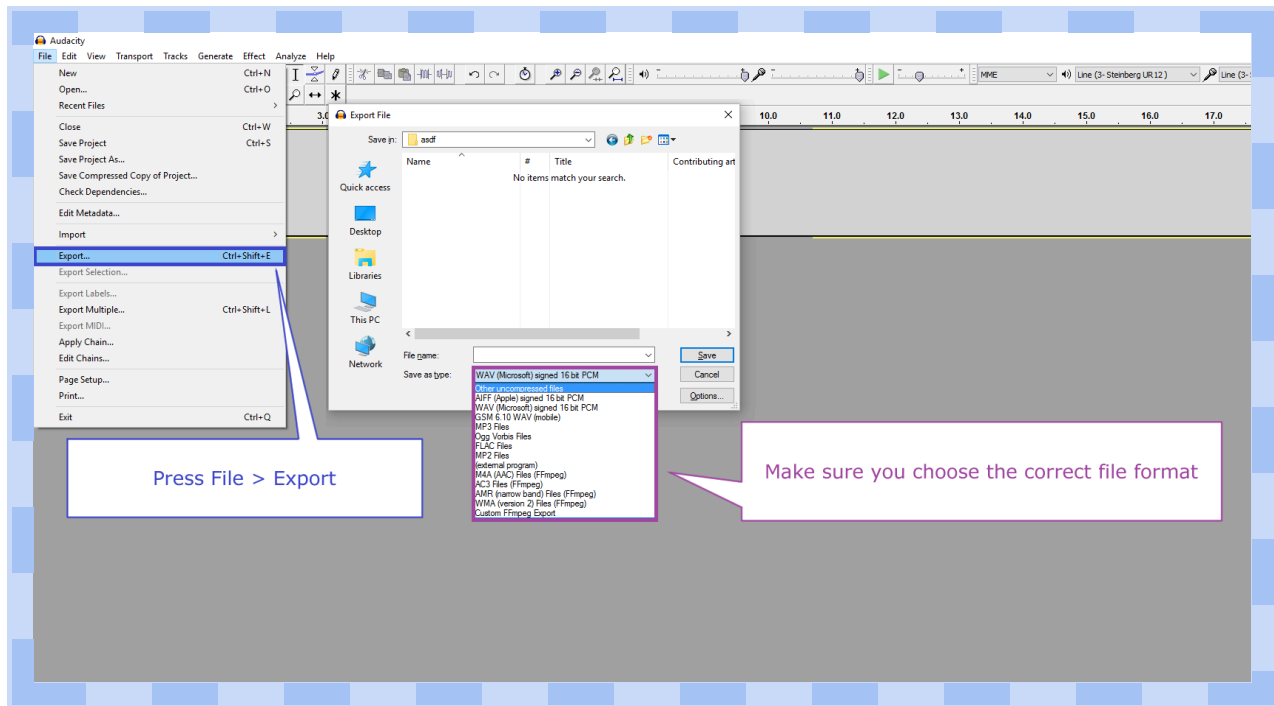   - We like random crap. Please give us random crap.

- Take separate takes on some harder parts
    - If you drag and select the part of the audio, you can [remove it](). (*Don't do it on small segments; it'll make the recording choppy. If you were to remove part of a song, remove the whole segment/passage and re-record.*)
    - You can then [sing another take]() for that part of the song!
- If you found a lot of noise in your recording, leave a 20 second gap of silence so the editor can get a good sample of background noise.
    - By a lot of noise, we mean constant noise like white noise. We can't deal with your dog barking or anything like that, so keep that in mind.
- Higher notes are easier to sing if you sing confidently/"loudly" and with good breath support.
    - Just make sure you're not too close to the microphone. It's especially easy to make your recording distorted when you're singing loudly.
    - Enthusiastic singing is what makes /r/anime sings great. It makes it more lively and exciting!
- The recording should be the dry vocal (i.e. no background music).
    - Don't forget to remove background audio from the Audacity project before you send in the audio file!
- Have fun!

After the Recording

- File > Export as a .ogg, .mp3, or .wav file.
    - Different people prefer different formats so please make sure you choose the right one!

Press File > Export

Make sure you choose the correct file format

- Email the file to the email address in the post and add your reddit name in the email unless you want to remain anonymous.
    - Having your reddit username in the file name will make managing the files easier, so please do so!
    - **Filename Example :** Tora_the_Tiger Flyers (Death Parade OP).wav
- File too big to send over email?
    - If the file is too big, upload it to Google Drive or some other file sharing service (mediafire, Dropbox, OneDrive, Box.com, or Mega) and email the link.

FAQ

Q. How do I suggest a song to sing for these projects?

A. You can leave us a comment on the most recent /r/anime sings release, or shoot any of the Songmasters a PM. We can let the others know there is interest and we might start a project based off your idea!

Q. Can everyone be in the final project or is it only a selected group of people?

A. Everyone who submits a recording will have their voice used in some part of the project in some way. We will manage. Don't worry.

Q. Will I know where my part is in the song?

A. The least we can do is hope that you can hear yourself. In these projects, we like to keep a form of anonymity between the mixers and the singers, so we'll never say who's singing at what part unless A. you point yourself out in the comments or B. everyone else in that project is comfortable with it. Exceptions can be made if you want to be noticed and you're saying memes at the beginning of the song.

Q. This part of the song is too hard to sing! What do I do?

A. If part of a song is too hard to sing, just skip it! We'll most likely have others that will sing those parts of the song.

Q. How long does the mixing process take usually?

A. It depends on who's mixing and how long the video editing will take. Some people finish mixing in like a week and a half and others take more time. Our main video editor, /u/xKaillus, is frequently caught up with work and can take a little bit to produce videos for the channel. *(it's not excuses i swear)*

Q. Oh shoot! My submission is 10 minutes late! Can I still send it in?

A. We are pretty laid back on late submissions, but don't get them too late (more than 24 hours late) or else we may not accept the submission.

Q. I want to participate in mixing/video editing! How do I join?

A. Let us know through a PM! We always welcome new talent and people who want to work on a project like /r/anime sings. If you want to start a project your own, please feel free to.

Q. How do I mix one of these songs? Is there any kind of tutorial available?

A. Might come soon ;)

Q. How about video editing? How do I make my own video?

A. Generally, /u/xKaillus takes care of the videos. Once a mixer is done mixing, they send the file over to Kail and the video gets made independent of the mixer. Making the video is usually very tedious and a stupid process, so let Kail know if you're up to the challenge. Unless you have prior experience with other video editing software, you'll have to acquire either Adobe After Effects CS6 or CC 2015.

Q. When is Database done?

A. ~~God Only Knows~~ It's actually done. Link here.

TL;DR for those who are lazy:

1. [Download Audacity](#)
2. Connect your mic and press the red recording button.
3. Press the red square when you're done.
4. File > Export as a .ogg, .mp3, or .wav file. (Specified by project organiser)
5. Email the file to *insert email here* and add your reddit name (helps if you put your username in the file itself too).
6. If the file is too big, upload to Google Drive or something and email the link. Alternatively, you could use mediafire, Dropbox, OneDrive, Box.com, or Mega.
7. This should be the dry vocal (i.e. no background music).

Recording/Submitting tips:

1. Drag & Drop audio file in Audacity to prevent timing differences
2. Don't sing too close to your mic! It causes clipping/distortion.
3. Higher notes are easier to sing if you sing confidently/"loudly" and with good breath support.
4. Have fun with it!
5. Take separate takes on some harder parts
6. Put your reddit username in the filename
7. Sing random crap in the instrumental
8. If you found a lot of noise in your recording, please leave a 20 second gap of silence so the editor can get a good sample of background noise.