

Q&A – Music in the Car
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Presented by Ray Baxter
APCUG President/Treasurer
President, Payson Computer Meet-Up Club



Q - Gabriel: Any thoughts on making cassette music available, or too tedious and not worthwhile because they're not digital?

A - Ray. Websites like Etzy and eBay continue to offer used cassette tapes for sale if that is what you are interested in using but keep in mind that magnetic tape deteriorates and at some point will be unplayable. If the reason for this question is because your older car has a tape player I would recommend purchasing an inexpensive car cassette adapter (about \$7 at Walmart) that allows you to plug in your smartphone or portable CD player so the sound will come thru the car speakers.

Q - Jon: Can a mechanical or SSD usb hard drive be plugged in to the USB port provided that you have some way to power it?

A. The USB connector in cars is powered so an SSD can be used. However, depending on the car (and its age), most are not able to properly index all the songs a large SSD can hold. I have found most cars are fine with a thumb drive of 60 GB but have difficulty indexing (organizing) sizes larger than that. Your vehicle's owner's manual usually spells out how many folders and files can be indexed.

Q - Sandee: What was the name of the android program in the car)?

A. The Android system for the car is called Android Auto; more can be found at: <https://www.android.com/auto/>

Q - Susan: Can you copy audio books from CD to the computer and then play them in the car?

A. I will admit up front that I don't own any audio books so I may not be the best person to answer this question. But just like music CD's having to deal with the disappearance of CD players in the car, the same applies to audio books on CD. My guess is if the Audio Book on CD format is readable by Windows Media Player, then it should be able to convert it to an MP3 as it would with music. However, if the company producing the disc is using a specialized software that uses DRM protection then you may have to purchase a program to counter the DRM protection. More about this can be found at: How to Rip Audiobook CD to MP3 (drmware.com)

Q - Sandee: Any experience ripping Audiobooks and playing them in the car (must be able to resume)..

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Q - Barbara: Do u use data allotment when listening to music through your phone in the car? Probably yes for music streaming? Probably no if it's on your phone.

A. You are correct Barbara that only streaming eats into your data allotment when you are not at home connected to wi-fi. I have read that on average if you listened to music for 8 hours that might use about 1GB of data.

Q - Larry: How do you eliminate pops and snaps on vinyl LPs?

A. When you ask about eliminating pops and snaps on vinyl LPs, I presume you mean when recording them to mp3 files. My Sony USB turntable came with Sound Forge software to do just that. The free Audacity software also has the ability to remove unwanted noises from vinyl records.

Q - Darlene: I would also like to know re YouTube video to audio programs.

A. The program I use to extract audio from a YouTube video and save it as an mp3 file is called 4k Video Downloader. Don't be fooled by the name as it does what you're asking for too. Check out this YouTube link for a tutorial on how to download and use this free program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i_sMTjoxM8

Q - Elaine: I am also interested in hearing how to convert YouTube videos to record sound.

A. The program I use to extract audio from a YouTube video and save it as an mp3 file is called 4k Video Downloader. Don't be fooled by the name as it does what you're asking for too. Check out this YouTube link for a tutorial on how to download and use this free program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i_sMTjoxM8

Q - Karl: Any advantage to using higher bit rate when burning audio, .i.e. 320 vs 128

A. As you know Karl, using 320kbps offers higher quality but uses more space while 128kbps is lesser quality and uses less space. However, it all depends on how the music sounds to you. Do a "blind listening test" with someone playing the same song

thru the same speaker system at different qualities, and see if you can tell the difference, and go with the one that sounds the best for you – if it's a tie go with the lower quality. In my case since I'm ripping my music from CD quality to a compressed version, I automatically go for the best quality in an mp3.

Comment – Gabriel: You can have a dealer install players not factory installed. I had a tape player installed in 2007 car, suspect you can do that with a CD player now.

Comment - Bill: I recall when AM Radio only had 5-6 buttons that were locked in placed by a cord that you had to pull out the button, "dial the band" until you found the channel and then pushed the button all the way in to "lock" it in or catch the cord.

Comment - Steve: I use Exact Audio Copy

Comment – John: I can burn MP3's to CD to play in the car. But I find if they aren't 128 bps, they won't play. Probably an issue with my CD player.

Comment - Dave: Of course with streaming service, make sure your data plan does not go over its limit

Comment - Ken: A great free program to edit the metadata (tags) in MP3 files is MP3Tag, available at <https://www.mp3tag.de/>

Comment – Roger: I've seen some new cars with built-in Wi-Fi.

Comment - Roger: I am using the Amazon Echo auto with Android phone and Bluetooth/FM transmitter in an older car, and it works great. All voice controlled due to Alexa.

Comment – Roger: Between Amazon prime music and Pandora, I don't see the need to rip old CD's.

Comment - Bob: The Avast Secure Browser can copy videos and copy them as audio.