

audio recording formats

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Uncompressed Audio Formats

- **WAV (Waveform Audio File Format):** Industry standard for recording, editing, and mastering. Uncompressed, high quality, large file size. Universal compatibility.[1234568](#)
- **AIFF (Audio Interchange File Format):** Apple's equivalent to WAV. Uncompressed, high quality, large file size. Preferred in some Mac-based studios.[234568](#)

Lossless Compressed Audio Formats

- **FLAC (Free Lossless Audio Codec):** Compresses audio without loss of quality. Popular for archiving, sharing, and hi-res listening. Not natively supported by all [DAWs](#).[1234568](#)
- **ALAC (Apple Lossless Audio Codec):** Apple's lossless format. Used in Apple Music and iTunes. Same quality as FLAC, but for Apple ecosystems.[234568](#)

Lossy Compressed Audio Formats

- **MP3 (MPEG Audio Layer III):** Most common for distribution and streaming. Small file size, lower quality than lossless/uncompressed formats. Universal compatibility.[1234568](#)
- **AAC (Advanced Audio Coding):** Used by Apple Music, [YouTube](#), and many streaming platforms.

Better quality than MP3 at similar bitrates.[2345](#)

- **M4A (MPEG-4 Audio):** Container format, often uses AAC compression. Common for downloads and streaming, especially in Apple environments.

High-Resolution and Specialized Formats

- **DSD (Direct Stream Digital):** Used for Super Audio CDs and some hi-res downloads. Very high quality, large file size, less common in mainstream production.[25](#)
 - **Ogg Vorbis:** Open-source, lossy format. Used in some games and streaming platforms (like Spotify).
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Merged Segment (.review/organized/A/Audio Recording Formats.md)

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Uncompressed Audio Formats