

Transferring Records And Tapes To CDs

Sessions: One

Total Hours: Two

Prerequisite: None. Audacity Software Program is recommended

This class using Audacity, a free open source software program, is designed to assist the Member who may have Phonograph Records or Audio Tapes that they wish to move to a more modern format such as Compact Disks.

Today, it is often inconvenient to find a working record player, and audio tapes degrade significantly over time and exposure to less than ideal storage conditions. With Compact Disks and modern digital audio enhancing programs, many of these old records and tapes can be transferred to this more stable media. In many cases, defects such as tape hiss or pops from scratches on records can be repaired, and vocals or music can actually be made clearer and more vibrant. Compact Disk media often have an archival value of up to one hundred years, and therefore the music that is transferred now can be enjoyed by future generations over a long period of time.

The equipment required to perform this task is not overly complicated or expensive, and is available through a variety of sources. A computer with a Sound Card such as Sound Blaster (some on-board sound equipment will work just as well), a CD Burner, Audacity Software Program, a Phonograph with Amplifier, or a Cassette Tape Player, and Miscellaneous Cables and Plugs.

The Instructor will demonstrate the correct assembly of the equipment and the proper set-up of the Software Program. Testing of the tracks before final capture is important, and this will be explained fully. The entire process from the actual audio capture through the final burning to a CD will be shown, and ample time will be devoted to answering any questions that class participants may have.

The student that has an interest in preserving their records and tapes will find the discussions of hardware and software that is available to accomplish this to be relevant and important. Also, a clear understanding of potential problems will lead the Member to a successful conclusion of the task at hand.