

How to get the most out of the noise removal feature in Audacity

The key to getting good results with the **Noise Removal** feature in [Audacity](#) is to get **Step 1** (Get Noise Profile) right. The feature works by having you provide a sample of audio that represents just the noise/hiss in your recording. In **Step 1** (Get Noise Profile), the sample you provide should not contain any music at all, only the noise that you want to remove. The more pure noise that your sample contains in **Step 1**, the better the noise reduction filter will sound in **Step 2**. Here is a link to a [very detailed guide](#) (click the link) which provides walkthroughs specifically for the **Noise Removal** feature in Audacity.

The best way to approach noise reduction software is to think of it like medicine...

- Don't use it if you don't have to
- The wrong type can make things worse
- The wrong amount can ruin everything
- A little often goes a long way
- There is no single cure-all
- In some cases there is no cure
- It often takes expert experience to get right

Also keep in mind that the **Noise Removal** feature does nothing for pops and clicks, and the **Click Removal** feature does nothing for noise removal.

Even the best noise reduction software (\$1,000-\$30,000) takes practice and restraint to get right. But, the good news is that noise reduction software has come a long way, and the feature found in Audacity is actually quite good (especially for free software)!

The best thing you can do to get the best results from any noise reduction software is to start with clean records, and use as little noise reduction as possible, (none if possible). However, if you find that you are getting a lot of use out of the noise reduction feature, and are you're looking for a step up in noise reduction quality, have a look at [SoundSoap](#) from Bias (\$99 at [SweetWater](#)). It works much like the noise reduction feature in Audacity, but you can accomplish a greater level of reduction before it starts to sound bad.

As always, make sure you have the latest available version of your software installed. Below are links to the most current recommended versions of [Audacity](#):

Windows XP and Vista	Audacity v.1.2.6
Macintosh Intel	Audacity v.1.2.5
Macintosh PPC	Audacity v.1.2.6
Setup and Recording Guide	Audacity Software Guide v.5.0