


# GarageBand Tutorial – Practice Items

## Lesson 5: Convert Audio Files

1. Download Switch software (free): <http://www.nch.com.au/switch/index.html>.
2. Open iTunes.
3. Open new GarageBand project: File → New (⌘N).
4. Is the file compatible with GarageBand?
  - a. Drag desired audio file into timeline -if it goes in, there is no need to convert.
  - b. If it doesn't go in, the file will need to be converted.
5. Is the file compatible with iTunes?
  - a. Drag desired audio file into iTunes.
  - b. If it goes in, convert with iTunes. Select: Advanced → Create MP3 version. Follow process from Lesson 4 to locate song file and move it to desired location.
  - c. If it doesn't go in, convert with Switch.
6. Use Switch to convert outside of iTunes or to non-MP3 file type.
  - a. Open Switch.
  - b. Drag and drop audio file into Switch window.
  - c. Select output folder - this is where your converted file will end up.
  - d. Select output format - mp3 is widely compatible.
  - e. Convert: Use menu (Convert → Convert Files), keyboard shortcut (⇧⌘C), or click on icon in lower right corner of window:  

7. Drag converted file into GarageBand timeline.

### SAMPLE AUDIO FILES:

- *Bushwalla intro*, by Jason Mraz, retrieved from <http://www.archive.org/details/jasonmraz2009-07-25.akg463s.ps2.flac16>
- *Sisters* (ogg vorbis), by Global Funk, retrieved from <http://www.archive.org/details/gfc2004-02-12>
- *Whole Item* (m3u), by Global Funk, retrieved from <http://www.archive.org/details/gfc2004-02-12>
- *Eternal Wind* (MIDI), retrieved from [http://www.archive.org/details/ETERNAL\\_WIND\\_MIDI](http://www.archive.org/details/ETERNAL_WIND_MIDI)

## SWITCH AUDIO FILE FORMATS:

Switch can convert to and from common audio file formats, some of which are listed below. Information in the table below is from FileInfo.com:

<http://www.fileinfo.com/filetypes/audio>.

EXTENSION	FILE DESCRIPTION	INFORMATION
.aac	Advanced Audio Coding File	iTunes default encoding. Similar to an .MP3 file, but offers several performance improvements.
.aif	Audio Interchange File Format	CD-quality audio file, similar to a .WAV file; standard CD audio AIFF files have two channels (for stereo sound).
.flac	Free Lossless Audio Codec File	Open-source; uses lossless audio compression; compresses audio files with no loss in quality.
.m3u	Media Playlist File	Contains a playlist of MP3s and other audio/video files; contains references to files, but not the actual files.
.mov	Apple QuickTime Movie	Common multimedia format often used for saving movies and other video files; Mac and PC compatible.
.mpc	Musepack Compressed Audio File	Based on .MP2, but with several improvements; not as popular as .MP3 c, but has higher-quality sound.
.mp3	MP3 Audio File	Common for music files and audiobooks; near-CD quality in a file 1/10 the size of a .WAV or .AIF file.
.ogg	Ogg Vorbis Compressed Audio File	Compressed audio file that uses free, unpatented Ogg Vorbis compression; similar to an .MP3 file, but sounds better than an MP3 file of equal size.
.pls	Audio Playlist	Playlist containing a list of audio files; may be used to redirect to an Ogg Vorbis (.OGG) audio file; contains references to files, but not the actual data.
.vox	VoxWare Dialogic Audio File	MetaVoice encoded audio file that simulates human speech.
.wav or .wave	WAVE Audio File	CD-quality audio file, similar to .AIFF file; WAVE more common on Windows, AIFF more common on Mac.

### Other common formats:

.m4a	Apple Lossless Audio File	Provides lossless compression saved in MPEG-4 container format.
.mid or .midi	MIDI File	Standard MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) file; contains music data such as what notes are played, when they are played, how long each note is held, and the loudness (velocity) of each note.
.wma	Windows Media Audio File	Similar to the .MP3; often used for playing music from the Web; Windows Media video files use .WMV.