QuickTime: Saving Audio Sounds as QuickTime Movie (5/95)

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TOPIC ---

If you have an AppleCD 300e, 300i, 600e, or 600i and QuickTime 1.6 or later, you can:

1) Open an Audio CD track from within any QuickTime application (like Simple Player or MoviePlayer).

2) Select a track, and save it as a sound file on a hard drive with either 22Khz or 44KHz sampling rate, 8- or 16-bit resolution, and either stereo or mono.

DISCUSSION ---

Here are the details. Follow these steps:

1) Start the application.
2) Select Open from the file menu.
3) Navigate to the Audio CD (in the drive) and select a track.
4) Select Convert.
5) Select Options to change resolutions and other parameters.

The music will be transferred and saved as a QuickTime movie. You can then use an application like Premiere or SoundEdit 16 to save the track into AIFF format for use elsewhere.

The audio data, instead of just going out the RCA jacks or the headphone jack, gets transferred through the SCSI bus with no loss of fidelity or added signal noise as you get when going "out" of the CD then "in" a sampling card or unit. Of course, you need the disk space (44KHz, 16-bit stereo sound takes a lot of disk space).

Also, because most Macintosh hardware only supports the output of 8-bit sound, samples that are played will sound scratchy, because of the process of converting 16-bit sound to 8-bit sound. Converting the 16-bit CD Tracks to an 8-bit sound will produce 'scratchy' results, even if later played by 16 bit hardware. For best results, save sounds as 16-bit, and use a third party sound card that supports 16-bit sound. The exception to this are the Quadra and Centris AV models and Power Macintosh models, which support 16-bit output without the addition of a third-party sound card.

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23 May 1995 - Made article more version generic.
11 Aug 1993 - Reordered steps. Added information about 16-bit audio.

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