review: music man

macnn rating

manufacturer: mireth technology corp.
msrp: $29.95 boxed, $19.95 download

by rick curran and ilene hoffman
2007/05/11

Mireth Technology states that Music Man is the easiest way to organize, rip, convert, burn and play MP3, WMA, WAV, Ogg Vorbis, AIFF, and MIDI (MID and KAR) using Mac OS X. When it comes to audio conversion, Music Man seems to be the Swiss Army Knife for Mac sound. For those of you who find the sound format alphabet soup confusing, just navigate to Music Man's web tutorials for links to explanations.

simple tabbed interface

Music Man sports a simple tabbed interface to help you do its thing. The Organize tab sets up play lists to help you get ready to burn, play, or convert your file. The Play tab lets you listen to audio CDs, DVD, flash media, and hard drive audio files. The Rip tab pulls audio files from commercial CDs and places them on your hard drive. Convert changes one sound format to another. The Burn tab creates audio discs from your iTunes play lists or any other play list and supports MP3 disk burning, as well as high quality audio disc creation. Flash lets you put your sounds on flash media, like a thumb drive. The Music Store tab helps you buy more music from a number of vendors, complete with a button that passes the links right to Safari. Some of the links even offer free music. It is not too tricky for the new user and there are a lot of step by step instructions.

Instead of dropping files into the main screen, a Drop Zone window is accessible in most tabs. This isn't quite a standard interface for OS X, but it works just fine. Other controls, such as a Burn icon, appear as needed in each tab.

handles most audio formats

Music Man plays audio from eight different formats on your Mac, including MP3, AIFF, MID and AAC. This means if you stick in a CD, or DVD or thumb drive, the Mac should be able to play it. If you have a stack of files on your Mac, you can burn them on to a CD or DVD. On the other hand if you need to convert one of eleven sound formats to MP3, OGG, AAC or WAVE files, Music Man is the software to do it. While Music Man converts almost everything, it will not convert Protected AAC files you buy at the iTunes store

If you want to take all of the sound files on your computer and create a music library, with Music Man, it is a snap. To save space, Music Man can also convert your music to AM, FM, or CD quality. The better the quality, the larger the file size. If you want to move your music to a flash drive, you can save four times more music if you record it at AM Radio Quality or save even more space by converting your music to Monaural, although that may be a bit insulting to your ears. Still not enough space, Music Man can save 50 hours of music on a single DVD at CD quality. If you get tired of the same old music, Music Man can erase your rewriteable media and fill it back up, but make note that not all rewriteables work well in all players.

Music Man recommends that you download a couple of free helper programs to assist you. For example, to convert a format to MP3 you must download the LAME encoder, a command line tool that is used by almost every audio conversion utility available. Music Man makes this easy by providing a link and simple instructions in their preferences.

compresses music well

I used Music Man to convert large WAV sound files made by the software that came with my new USB turntable. The converted MP3 files are so much smaller. A full side of a record as a WAV file is almost 200 MB, but Music Man converted it to a 14MB MP3 file. Ilene notes it took an 11MB piece of harmonica music and created a 288KB MP3, which is quite a difference in size from the 1MB file she got when she used the free Audion from Panic, Inc. The lack of a progress bar while converting is a bit disconcerting, but a dialog appears warning you that "This can take a bit of

Ramjet
Mac Pro RAM
1Gig $149, 2Gig $199
4Gig $395, 8Gig $795
MacBook/iMac RAM
1Gig $59, 2Gig $118

top stories
- WSJ: Jobs, Gates interview
- Google iPhone widgets?
- DRM-Free iTunes This Week
- Refurb Mac mini $699
- Apple ramps OS X security
- Apple growth tops industry
- Analysts on MBP at WWDC
- Apple CEO on Al Gore
- more...

most popular
- SOHO Notes, Organizer
- YouTube on Apple TV
- Apple TV plug-in SDK
- ScreenRecycler 1.0
- Camera Raw 4.1 update
- TagBot; iShowU
- Mac cellphone utility
- WSJ: Jobs, Gates interview
- more...

most commented
- Apple CEO on Al Gore (123 comments)
- Microsoft iPod amnesty bin (41 comments)
- Apple vs. sex toy ad (23 comments)
- 1M Zunes Sold (20 comments)
- No MySpace in Apple

time, but not too much. Please wait." Dialogs in general seem lacking, and when a damaged file was mistakenly put in to convert, the program seemed to process it, but nothing was saved to disk. An error dialog should be added for such problems.

requirements

The system requirements are a bit more complex than other programs, as Mireth states, "You MUST have Mac OS X 10.2.3 or later to use Music Man," plus, it requires Mac OS X 10.4 to burn an audio CD. It does have some of the best help and tutorial files on conversion I've seen to date. There are even links to other sites for explanations of the different audio formats. A demo version that works for 30 days and only converts one file at a time, gives you a good overview of the program.

This program does a tremendous amount of work for not a lot of money. It is easy to use and the instructions that come with the package are very easy to understand. If you need to convert sound files, it is likely that Music Man can do it.

Reasonably priced. Easy to use.
Works for many sound formats.
Excellent documentation.

No progress bar when converting.
Dialogs are not very good.

recent product reviews

- Art Text
- Music Man
- QuickSnap
- Proporta Gadget Bag
- Vyper exo M
- SportWrap for iPod
- Swivel Aluminum Case
- XtremeMac Tango
- Cerulean XLR Earbuds
- Booq Vyper XS
- Laptop GelaSkins
- Cardette Multi-Card Read
- ProTouch keyboard cover

more...

stores (15 comments)
- Apple to surpass IBM? (14 comments)
- Suit targets Apple, labels (14 comments)
- Google iPhone widgets? (14 comments)
- more...

MacNN

- QuickTime security update
- ExpressSAS RAID cards
- MemoryScape 2.0 released
- PayPlay takes on iTunes
- Aiptek GO-HD
- 1M Zune Claim Misleading
- WSJ: Jobs, Gates interview
- Sonik Synth 2.1 released
- more...

iPodNN

- iStyles 2007 sleeves
- Body Glove kickstand case
- Scottevest Polo and Hoodie
- Mophie Bevy shuffle cases
- Belkin helps fight cancer
- Shades iPod cases
- Capsule 2G Nano case ships
- SendStation Dock Extender
- more...

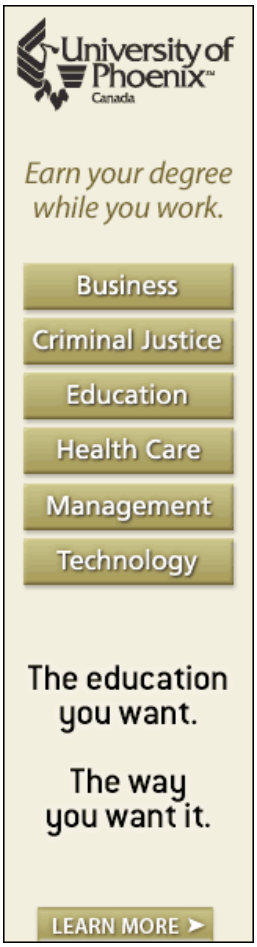
Electronista

- Fujitsu at Tokyo Premio
- HP Retail Store Assistant
- Yoggie Pico security stick
- Parrot Party and PMK5800
- Philips GoGear SA6000
- PayPlay takes on iTunes
- Aiptek GO-HD
- Samsung A717 details
- more...

top searches

1. apple
2. iphone
3. apple TV
4. ipod
5. mac
6. BBC
7. icons
8. icon
9. macbook
10. leopard

search for more ..



Polk Audio I-Sonic Entertainment System: Listen to HD radio, sync your ipod, play DVD's and more with the I-Sonic. Free Shipping!
Sell your Laptop - working or not. Free shipping.: Get an instant online quote and sell your laptop today !
Vonage, #1 Rated Digital Phone Service!: Unlimited local and long distance calling for $24.99 a month! 30 days risk-free trial!
Pay per Click Management Services: Quality Leads & Sales. Management Fee From $750 Monthly.Get More Results or Money Back Guaranteed!
18004MEMORY.COM SELLS MAC RAM: BUY APPLE APPROVED OR 100% GUARANTEED COMPATIBLE MEMORY USE CODE indb AT CHECKOUT FOR 10% OFF ORDER
Buy from The Apple Store, iTunes.com, Amazon.com, TechDepot, OfficeDepot, Computers4Sure, or donate.

Have your product or service listed here.

all contents copyright © mac news network 2007. branding + design: www.gesamtbild.com