----- VFX QUICK LINKS -----

# IMPORTING MP3S -- ADVANCED

**For importing your favorite mp3s into flash**
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- *NO .FLA AVAILABLE*
- **SKILL LEVEL:  ADVANCED**
- Know how to use Winamp
- Know how to import sounds (easy)
- Have a basic knowledge of Flash and how to edit your movies features

**\*\*\* Not recommended for large sound files (duh)\*\*\***

**NOTE:**  Due to the fact that this tutorial is based on sounds and not on video, there is no included .fla.  This tutorial will teach you how to make your own movies with mp3s in it, so you don't really need an example.

## TUTORIAL

Ok we've all been drooling over Flash 4's enigmatic support for mp3s. Turns out that Macromedia was kinda stretching the truth.  You can only import .wav files, and then you encode them into .mp3 files once they are in a flash movie. But don't despair!  You can still put your favorite mp3s into a movie!

1. Create your new movie, or open up your existing movie.

2. Open up winamp, the web's best mp3 player.  Of course, if you don't have it go grab it at www.winamp.com .

3. Now, get your favorite mp3.  If you don't have any mp3s, you can either go to Mp3.com, go to Audiogalaxy.com and search for mp3s by artists that you've actually heard of, or hey, you can even make your own mp3s off of your CD's by getting a ripper/encoder. There are many that you can download at Mp3.com.

4. If you've ever tried importing sounds into Flash, you know that you can only import .wav files.  So how do you get mp3s in there?  Well, first open the mp3 you want to import into winamp.

5. Now press Ctrl P, which will open up the preferences.  It should be a little window, with "Nullsoft Winamp - Preferences" on the top.  You should see a little tree on the left, and in the big screen you should be focused on "Input Plug-Ins".

6. On the tree, click on Output.  In the main window, double click on "Nullsoft Disc Writer Plug-In".  It will then present you with a tree asking you where you want to save exported .wav files.  It's all becoming so clear now...

7. Now simply push play on winamp.  You shouldn't hear any music, and the timeline bar should be moving faster than usual.  That's what you want.  It's exporting the .mp3 into a .wav.  Don't worry, it's not changing your mp3 in any way.
Note: Exporting entire mp3s in this way is unwise, because you'll end up with a really big movie.  If you want a piece of an mp3, simply position the timeline slider on winamp to the beginning of what you want to export, play it, and then hit stop when you want to stop the exporting.

8. Now you probably want to be able to listen to mp3s while you're working, so be sure to go back to preferences and change everything back.  Just simply click on the "Nullsoft DirectSound Plug-In" in the output window.  Then you're all set.  You can now play your mp3s without exporting them into wavs.  So we're halfway done.

9. Back to Flash.  With your movie open, go to File, then click on import.  Find your exported .wav file, and import it.  Now you'll have to wait a long time if you're importing a 40 mb .wav, so how about reading my note so that you have a much smaller .wav (and therefor a smaller movie).  Anyway, with it imported, open up your library (Ctrl L).  You should see your imported sound.  Right click on it, and then chose Export Settings.  Under the compression setting, change it from "default" to "mp3".  I'm not a sound guru, so i don't mess around with the Bit Rate and Quality.

10. There you have it!  A real mp3 in flash!  Just remember to use it in moderation.  I don't care how cool your site is, I'm not waiting 30+ minutes for it to load just because you had to have Limp Bizkit's Nookie for background music.  :)

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