

Free Technology on the Web – Where to Find It

by
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Desk top computing has brought the price of professional quality music production to almost everyone. However, even with the price of computers, midi keyboards and software becoming more and more affordable every day, technology is just a small part of the many things that you need to purchase with your music budget. Fortunately, the worldwide web has put developers and musicians in direct contact. Many of these developers have made their hard work available for free or as donationware on the internet. The list of free and donationware software below will keep anyone producing music for years to come. So, let's take a free ride down the information super highway!

First and foremost, you will need to download **Audacity** and all of its extra software. **Audacity** is a free sound editor/recorder/sequencer that will allow you to use the many free plug-ins on the list below (everything labeled VST). Simply follow the installation instructions supplied on the download page.

Following **Audacity** on the software list is **Finale Notepad**. **Finale Notepad** is a small version of the **Finale** notation software. It has several limitations, but will be suitable for most elementary and secondary needs. This is a "must have" freebie. It will open new doors to composition and note learning for your students.

Next, you will find synthesizers, drum machines, effects processors and even DJ software. Out of all of the free software available on the net, I tried to pick the software I found to be the most fun, reliable and flexible products out there. Finally, to satisfy even the hungriest of technology appetites, I've listed two of the best web-sites available to find free, safe, legal software downloads as well as a web-site that hosts free downloads of audio samples. So, here they are:

Software

Audacity

Sound Editor (Stand Alone)
Mac/PC/Linux
Developer: Source Forge
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

This is an excellent free sound editor and small sequencer available through Source Forge. It contains all the software you need to get started.

Features:

- Record live audio.
- Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs.

- Edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, and WAV sound files.
 - Cut, copy, splice, and mix sounds together.
- Change the speed or pitch of a recording.

Download the following:

Audacity Installer
LADSPA Plug-Ins
Lame mp3 encoder
VST enabler

Finale Note Pad

Notation Software (Stand Alone)
Mac/PC
Developer: Make Music
<http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/>

This is a small version of their flagship product **Finale**.

Crystal

Synthesizer VST/AU Plug-in
Mac/PC
Developer: Green Oak
<http://www.greenoak.com/crystal/download.html>

Crystal is one of the best free-ware vst synthesizers out on the web.

Crazy Ivan

Audio Effects VST
Mac/PC
Developer: SmartElectronix
<http://www.dontcrack.com/freeware/downloads.php/id/1143/software/Crazy-Ivan/>

Crazy Ivan will truly mangle your audio for some very interesting effects. This is a very fun plug-in to play with.

sfz

Soundfont and Wave Sampler VST
PC
Developer: rgc:audio
<http://www.rgcaudio.com/sfz.htm>

The sfz is a component of their larger software/sampler program. It is multitimbral and includes built in effects.

ErsDrum

Drum Machine VST

PC

Developer: Andreas Ersson

<http://www.bostreammail.net/ers/ersdrums.html>

PolyIblit

Synthesizer VST

PC

Developer: Andreas Ersson

<http://www.bostreammail.net/ers/polyiblit.html>

NorthPole Resonant Filter

Effects VST

Mac/PC

Developer: Prosoniq

<http://www.prosoniq.com/index.html>

This is a free effects plugin from a very fine software developer.

LFX-1310

Effects VST

Mac/PC

Developer: Luxonix

<http://www.luxonix.com/home/en/downloads.html?id=main>

This is a very nice effects plugin from Luxonix. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find this freeware.

MIXXX

DJ Tool (Open Source)

Mac/PC/Linux

Developer: Mixxx

<http://www.dontcrack.com/freeware/downloads.php/id/4226/software/Mixxx/>

Free and Legal Download Sites

The software on these download sites are posted by the developers themselves. These sites are not loaded with sales pop-ups and other annoyances.

KVR Audio

<http://www.kvraudio.com/>

Don't Crack

<http://www.dontcrack.com/>

The Freesound Project is a collaborative database of [Creative Commons](#) licensed sounds. The sound samples on this site are posted by the musicians who created them and are available for you to freely use. This site is not loaded with sales pop-ups and other annoyances either.

Free Sound

<http://freesound.iaa.upf.edu/index.php>

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