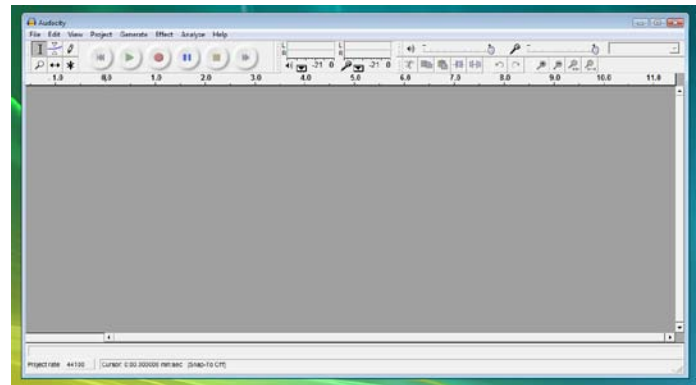# Opening Audacity and Getting Started
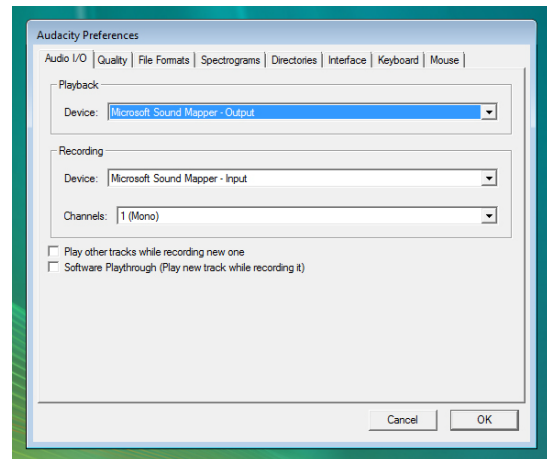
## Opening Audacity

Open Audacity by going to Start
> All Programs > **Audacity.**
If you are on a Mac, Audacity will
be in your Applications folder.



## Audacity Preferences

To change options such as your
recording or playback devices,
quality of recordings, and more,
go to **Edit** > **Preferences**. Most of
the time, unless you are using a
USB microphone or headset, you
will leave the settings as **Default.**



## Installing LAME MP3 Encoder

Under the **Preferences** window,
under the File Formats tab,
you can also locate the **LAME MP3
Encoder**, which will need to be done
before you can export your recording
as an MP3. Click "**Find Library**" and
locate the place where you saved the
LAME MP3 Encoder. If you have not
already downloaded this, please refer
to the "**Downloading and Installing
Audacity"** tip sheet.