

Peak Tutorial: Making an Audio CD

This tutorial will guide you through the process of creating an audio CD in Peak. To create an audio CD, you'll need to have audio recorded and saved to your hard drive. (This tutorial assumes that audio has already been recorded and saved.) If you need help with recording or editing audio, see the two previous tutorials.

You'll follow four main steps to create an audio CD in Peak.

1. Create regions, which will be the tracks on your CD.
2. Put those regions in a playlist.
3. Add crossfades between regions if necessary.
4. Burn the CD.

For more information about burning a CD with Peak, see chapter 6 in your Peak manual.

About Regions

Peak supports non-destructive audio editing. Among other things, this means that you can define and manipulate portions of an audio file without affecting the audio as it is saved on disk. These pieces of audio are called "regions." Effectively, a region is just a set of pointers that indicate start and stop times within an audio file. (For more information, see page 85 in your Peak manual.)

When creating a playlist, you can use sections of one large audio file, several small files in their entirety, or both. For the purposes of this tutorial, each region you define will later become a track on your audio CD.

The source audio files for all regions in a playlist must be open in Peak for the playlist to work properly. So,

after creating regions and adding them to a playlist, do not close the original audio files until you are done working with the playlist.

About Fades

When you move a region out of the context of its original file, its sound may begin and end abruptly. To remedy this, Peak can apply "fades" to the beginning and end of a region. A fade is simply a smooth increase or decrease in volume over a short period of time. A fade at the beginning of a region is referred to as a "fade in," while a fade at the end of a region is referred to as a "fade out." A "crossfade" occurs when one region fades out at the same time that another fades in.



Fades can take on several different shapes. They may be linear or parabolic, start or end quickly or slowly, and be long or short. You can even manually create a custom fade shape, as you'll see later in this tutorial.

See page 88 in your Peak manual for more information about fades and crossfades.

About Audio CD Burning

Peak comes bundled with Roxio Toast, which is software used for burning CDs. Roxio also makes a more advanced audio-CD-only software package called Jam. You can easily burn audio CDs with Peak and Toast, but if you want to incorporate more advanced features such as customizable gap times and crossfades between tracks, you'll need to purchase Jam separately.

To use either Toast or Jam, you must have a CD burner properly connected to your Mac.

This tutorial assumes that you have Toast or Jam properly installed. If not, use your Peak Installer CD to install Toast before you attempt to burn a CD.

Creating a CD

To create an audio CD in Peak:

1. If you haven't already done so, launch Peak.
2. Open the audio file(s) that you want to include on the CD.

For help opening files, see the previous tutorial, "Cleaning Up Audio Files."

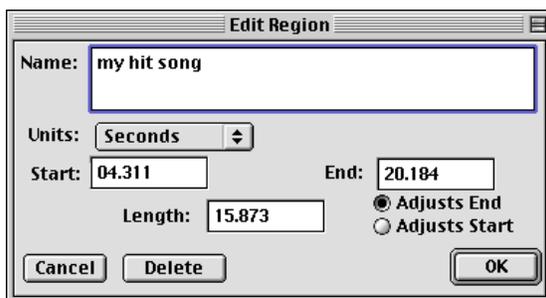
Define the regions you want to include on the CD

3. Select a portion of audio that will be one of the CD's tracks.

For help making selections, see the previous tutorial, "Cleaning Up Audio Files."

4. Choose Action > New Region (or type Command-Shift-R).

The Edit Region dialog appears.



Type a descriptive name for the region in the Name field.

5. Click OK.

The region is indicated in the waveform display as shown below.



6. Repeat steps 3-5 until you've defined all of the regions you wish to include on the CD.

Add regions to the playlist

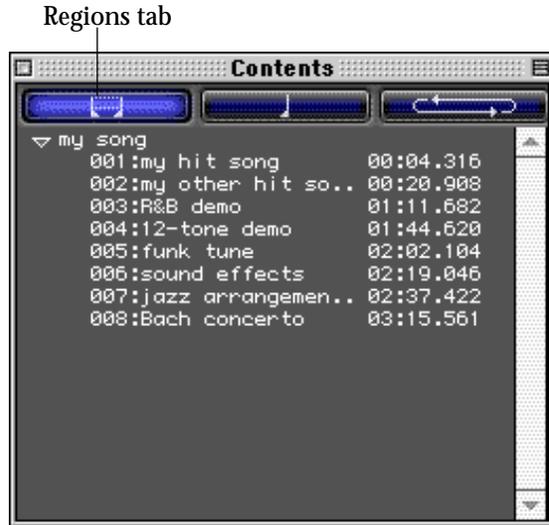
7. Choose File > New > Playlist Document (or type Command-Shift-P).

A new playlist is created.



- Choose Windows > Contents to open the Contents palette (if the Contents palette is already open, skip this step).

The Contents palette opens.



- Click the Regions tab to display region information.
All of the regions you defined in steps 3-5 are listed here.
- Click and hold on the name of a region in the Contents palette that you wish to include on the CD.
- Drag the name of the region onto the playlist document.
- Release the mouse button.
The region is added to the playlist. Once a region has been added to the playlist, it is considered a “playlist event.”
- Repeat steps 9-11 for all of the regions you want to include in the CD.



- If you wish to rearrange the order of your playlist, click and hold on a region title, drag it to the desired location, and release the mouse button.
- See page 87 in your Peak manual to find out more about the Playlist window and the various options that can be edited.

If you're using Toast...

...proceed with these steps. If you're using Jam instead of Toast, skip ahead to “If you're using Jam.”

- Click the Burn Audio CD button in the Playlist window.



Burn Audio CD button

Peak attempts to launch Toast. If Toast can't be found, Peak asks you to locate it.

Toast displays a dialog asking you to insert a blank CD into your CD burner.

- Insert a blank CD into your CD burner.
- Click OK.

Toast burns an audio CD of your playlist. You're done!

If you're using Jam...

...you can take advantage of some of Peak's advanced playlist options.

Note that any markers in your Peak files will be used as indexes in the Jam image file you create at the end of this process. For more information about creating and using markers, see page 70 in your Peak manual.

15. To insert blank time before an event, double-click in the event's Gap column.

The Playlist Event Gap Time dialog opens.



Enter a new gap time, then click OK.

16. Click a region in the playlist to select it, then click the Play button (or press the spacebar) to preview the event.



Playback begins at the beginning of the event.

17. If you wish to hear the transition out of the previous event and into the current one, hold down the Command key and click the Play button (or press Command-spacebar).

To set the amount of preroll (the length of time that will be played before the playlist event), choose Preference > Auditioning.

The Auditioning dialog opens.

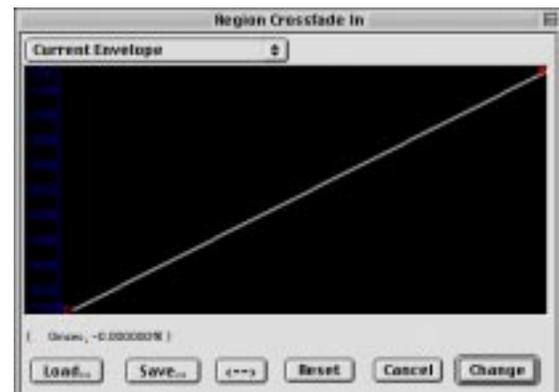


Enter the amount of preroll, then click OK.

Create crossfades between tracks

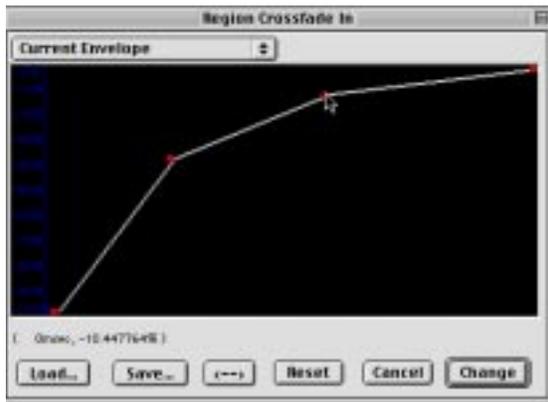
18. To change an event's fade in or fade out shape, double-click the fade you wish to change.

The Region Crossfade In/Out dialog opens.



19. Choose the fade shape you would like from the popup menu at the top of the window.

- If desired, you can manually adjust the fade by clicking and dragging in the fade area.



- When the fade is configured to your liking, click Change.

The new fade is applied to the event.

- Repeat steps 18-21 for all of the fades you wish to edit.

When the playlist is configured exactly the way you want the CD to sound, continue on to the remaining steps.

- To burn a CD of all playlist events, select all of the events by choosing Edit>Select All (or pressing Command-A).

All playlist events are selected.

- Choose File>New>Document from Playlist.

The Bounce Playlist dialog opens.



- From the File Format popup menu, choose Jam Image File.
- Under "Playlist events appear as," select the Regions radio button.

- Click Bounce.

A Save dialog appears.



- Navigate to the location for your new document, give it a name, and click Save.

Peak creates and opens a new Jam Image File document that incorporates all of your playlist events, crossfades, gap times, etc.

- Close the new audio file.

- Launch Jam.

- Open the Jam Image File that you just created in Peak.

- In Jam, burn a red-book format, disk-at-once audio CD using that file.

You're done!

Conclusion

You've now successfully recorded audio, cleaned up that audio, and burned an audio CD suitable for use in any CD player. Congratulations!

For more information about using Peak for these and other purposes, consult your Peak manual.