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Linux Convert an MP3 File to WAV Format

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How do I convert an MP3 file to WAV format under Linux using a shell prompt?

There are plenty of tools that to convert an MP3 file into WAV format. I recommend mpg321 which is a free command-line mp3 player, which uses the mad audio decoding library.



Install mpg321 or mpg123

Type the following command under Debian / Ubuntu Linux, enter:

[1]

```
sudo apt-get install mpg321
```

OR

```
sudo apt-get install mpg123
```

I recommend using mpg123 as it is updated frequently.

Install mpg123 under CentOS / RHEL / Fedora Linux

Turn on [rpmforge](#) ^[2] repo and type the following command:

```
yum install mpg123
```

Convert an MP3 to WAV

The -w option will convert an .mp3 file to .wav file. The syntax is:

```
mpg123 -w output.wav input.mp3
```

OR

```
mpg321 -w output.wav input.mp3
```

A Sample Shell Script Helper Function

Add the following to your [~/bashrc startup file](#) ^[3] (tested with bash v3.x+):

```
mp3towav() {  
  [[ $# -eq 0 ]] && { echo "mp3wav mp3file"; exit 1; }  
  for i in "$@"  
  do  
    # create .wav file name  
    local out="${i%/*}.wav"  
    [[ -f "$i" ]] && { echo -n "Processing ${i}..."; mpg123 -w "${out}" "$i" &>/dev/null &&  
    done  
  }  
}
```

Use it as follows:

```
mp3towav *.mp3  
mp3towav "this is a test.mp3"  
ls *.wav
```

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/bash-shell/>

[2] rpmforge: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-centos-fedora-media-mp3-players-installtion/>

[3] ~/.bashrc startup file: http://bash.cyberciti.biz/guide/Startup_scripts

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