

## Media

### Audio file formats

Audio files have been stored in three different formats. The following table will show the main differences between the formats used at the station.

Extension	Compression	Lossiness	Quality	File size
.flac	Compressed data file	Lossless format	Full quality	Medium file size.
.mp3	Compressed audio file	Lossy format	Variable quality	Smallest file size
.wav	Uncompressed file	Lossless format	Full quality	Largest file size

Note the difference between compressed audio and compressed data. With compressed audio, the audio information itself is altered to provide a smaller file size, but it results in a loss of audio quality. In contrast, compressed data means that while the data that makes up the audio is compressed, when the data is converted back into audio by the computer, the quality of the audio is unaffected.

It is therefore recommended to use the .flac file format for final playout audio where possible as it offers the best compromise between file size and audio quality. Audio editing should always be performed using .wav format files.

.mp3 files should only be used if that is how the file was supplied.