

Introduction to Multitrack Audio Editing with Web Resources

With this activity we will begin to work with multitrack audio editing with resources from the Web.

You will record the narration and then mix the three tracks together using Audacity audio editing Software. Audacity is a free program from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

NARRATION

I have the honor to inform you that accompanied by Lieutenant W.T. Sherman I started on the 12th of June last to make a tour through the northern part of California. My principal purpose was to visit the newly discovered gold placer in the valley of the Sacramento. We reached San Francisco on the 20th, and found that all, or nearly all, its male population had gone to the mines. The town, which a few months before was so busy and thriving, was then almost deserted.

From The First Official Report of the Discovery of Gold in California Made by Colonel R.B. Mason, U.S.A., to Headquarters, Washington, D.C., August 1, 1848. From The California Gold Country
<http://malakoff.com/tcoffici.htm>

You will need the following two audio files.

Music

My Darling Clementine

from

http://mail.abacho.ch/handy_toene_logos/polyphonen4/?group_id=5523

Sound Effect

Construction1

from

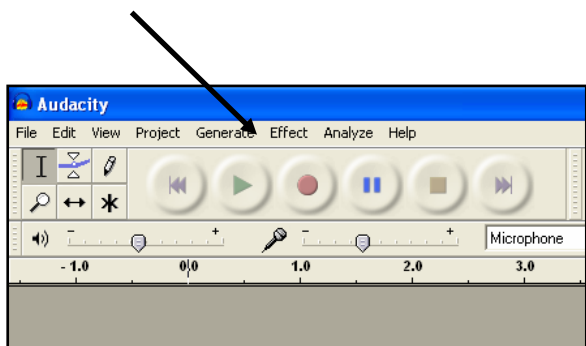
<http://www.partnersinrhyme.com/>

STEP BY STEP INSTUCTIONS for Multitrack Editing with Audacity

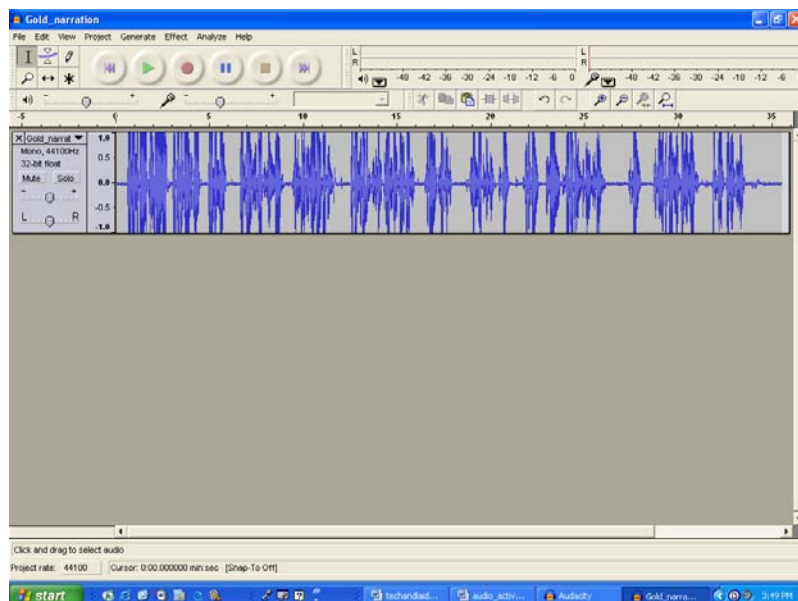
Most of these steps can be done in any order. Our final product will be a narration of a primary source document accompanied by contemporary music and sound effects (see sources above).

We will first create the narration.

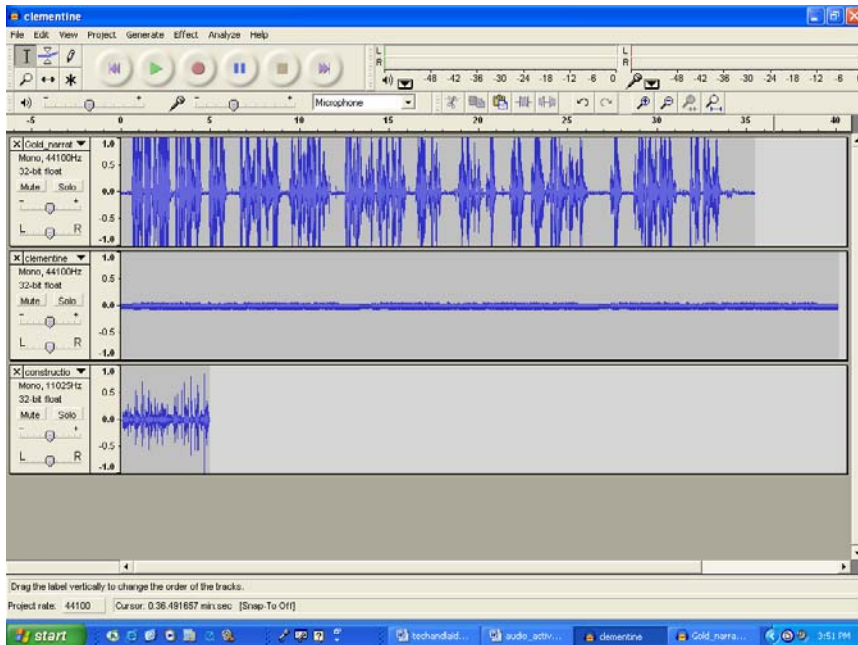
Click the record button and speak into the microphone.



You should get something that looks like this, your first track. If you have dead air before your narration (stage jitters or a eager trigger finger, don't worry. We will edit it out).



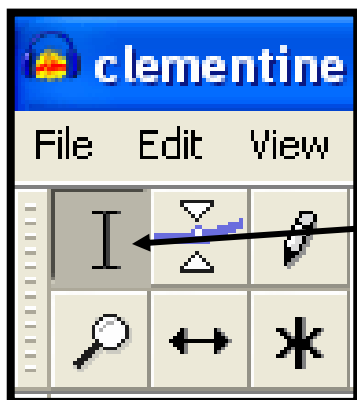
You will then import your other tracks by going to Project, Import Audio. Import Clementine and Construction 1



You can play a single or combination of tracks by using the Mute and Solo buttons on each track.

We will now manipulate the tracks. First, we will also loop the sound effects so that it plays throughout the recording. Second, we will arrange the music and sound effects to start before the narration. We will also make the music and narration louder before the narration and lower during the narration.

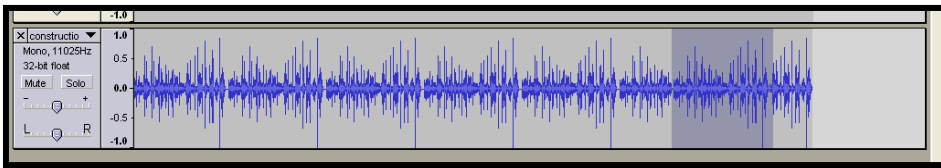
To do any editing your clip must be stopped, not paused. You will work a lot with the selection and time shift tool.



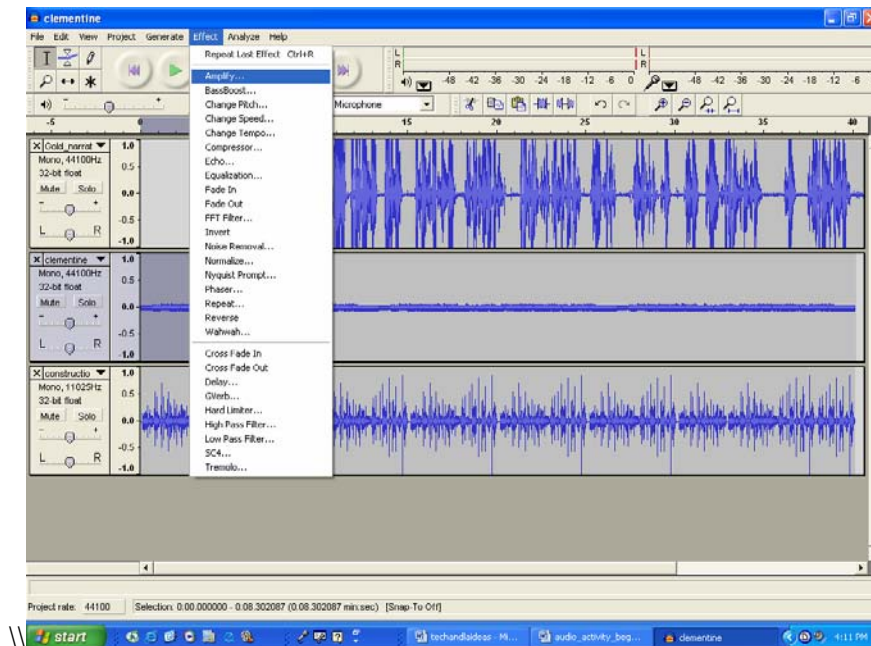
Selection Tool—most important. Lets you select a portion or all of a track to cut, copy, add effects, etc.

Time Shift Tool—lets you move tracks around on the timeline.

To loop the construction track, Select it using the selection tool, copy it, and then paste in on the track next to the original selection. Repeat until it goes a little beyond the narration.



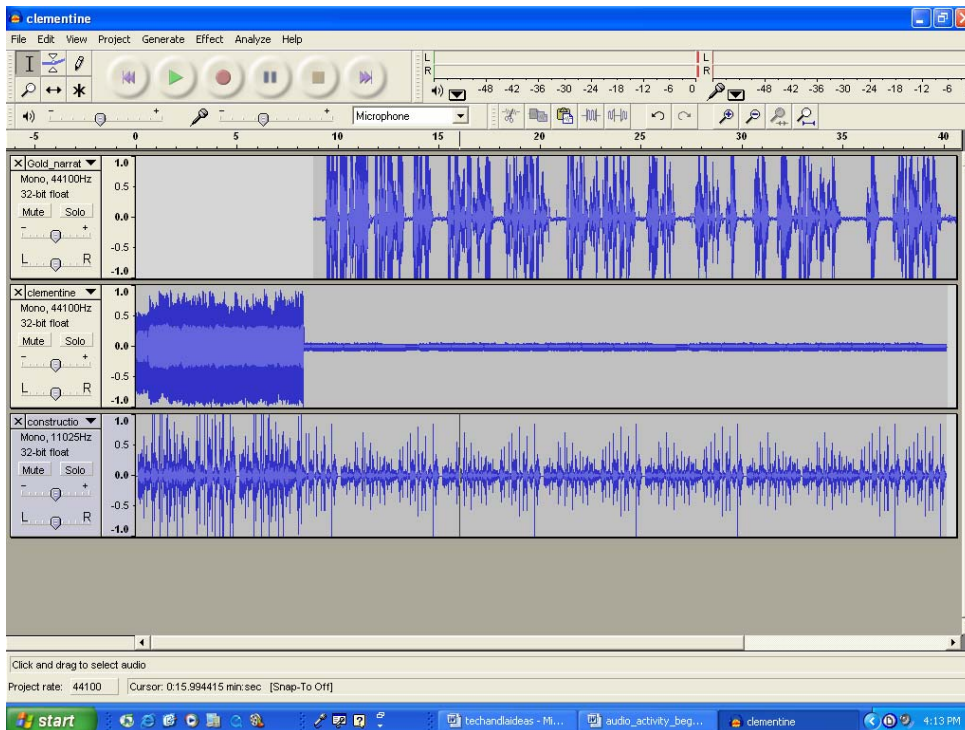
Then use the time shift too to move the narration back 10 seconds.



Then SELECT the 10 seconds of the Clementine track before the narration. When the 10 seconds before the narration is highlighted, go to effects, Amplify. You will have to experiment with the decibel levels.

Repeat with the construction1 sound effect loop.

Your final project should look something like this.



Finally, Export as an MP3