

How to Convert iTunes M4P to MP3

This wikiHow teaches you how to convert an M4P (protected) audio file into an MP3 (unprotected) audio file using iTunes on a computer. Protected audio files cannot be moved or played in places other than in iTunes, whereas MP3 files can be...

Method 1 of 2:

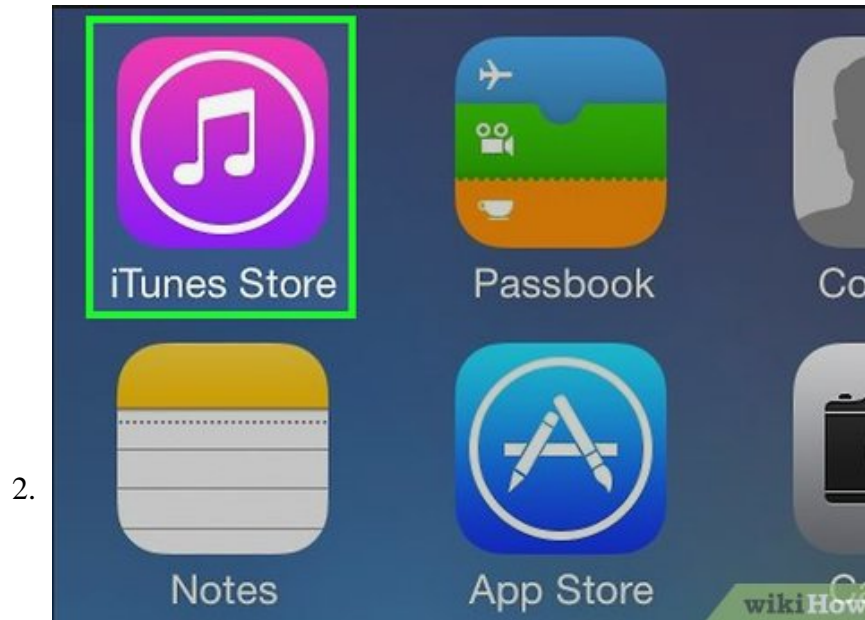
Converting via iTunes Match

1.



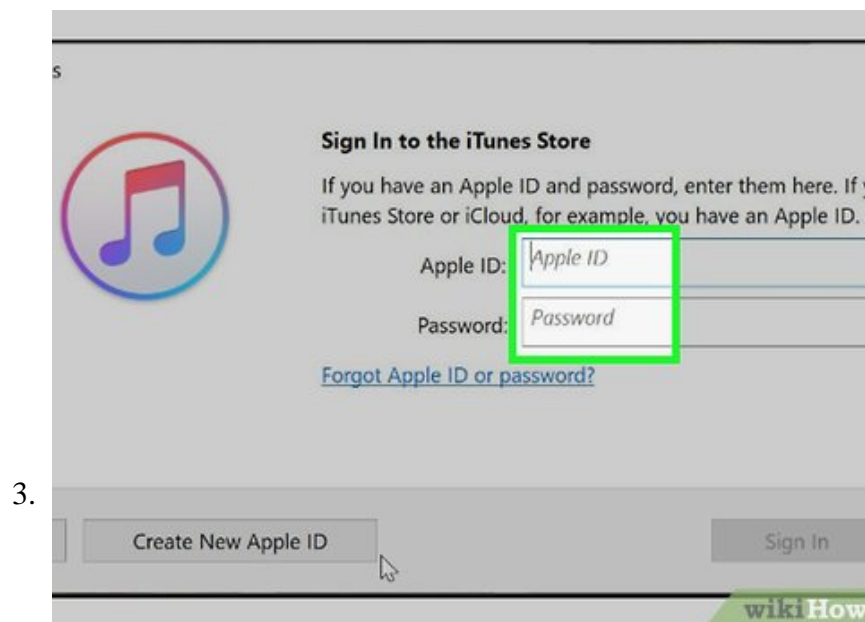
Purchase an iTunes Match subscription. iTunes Match stores all of your downloaded songs in iCloud, allowing you to re-downloaded past purchases; if those past purchases were protected, re-downloading them will convert them to unprotected audio. If you don't have iTunes Match, you can sign up for it by doing the following:^[1]

1. Open iTunes.
2. Click the **Store** tab.
3. Click the **iTunes Match** link on the right side.
4. Click the blue **Subscribe** button.
5. Enter your Apple ID information.
6. Enter payment information if prompted. iTunes Match costs \$24.99 per year.
7. Click **Subscribe**



Open iTunes. Its app icon resembles a multicolored musical note on a white background.

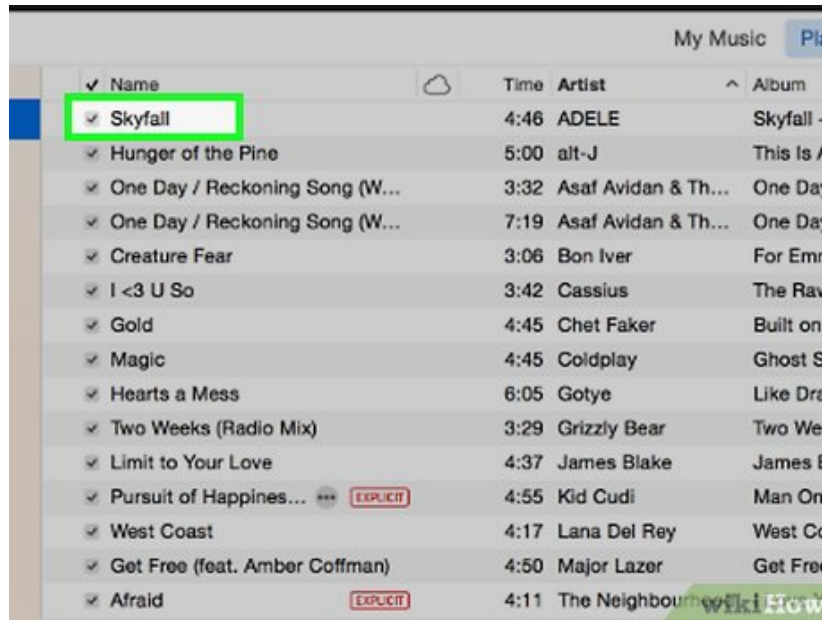
1. If you already opened iTunes to purchase an iTunes Match subscription, skip this step.
2. You may be prompted to update iTunes. If so, click **Download iTunes** in the prompt window, then allow iTunes to update. You will have to restart your computer before proceeding.



Sign into iTunes. Click the **Account** menu item that's in the upper-left side of the iTunes window (Windows) or the screen (Mac), then click **Sign In...** in the drop-down menu and enter your Apple ID email address and password.

1. If you see your name at the top of this drop-down menu, skip this step.
2. If you see someone else's name at the top of the drop-down menu, first click **Sign Out**, then re-open the **Account** menu to sign in with your credentials.

4.



Find the music that you want to convert. This might be an individual song (or a group thereof), or an entire album.

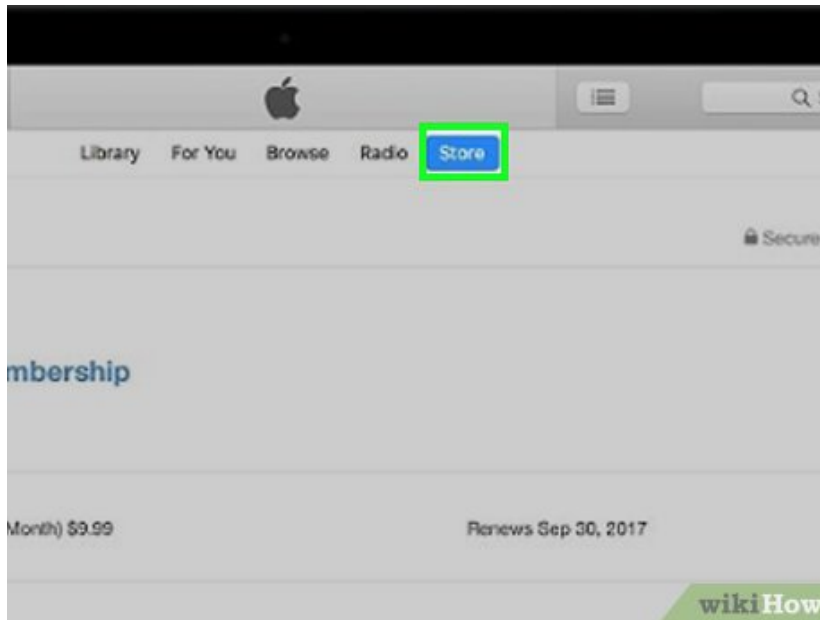
1. Make sure that this is music that you purchased from Apple. Protected music that wasn't purchased through Apple cannot be converted using this method.

5.



Delete the music. Select the music that you want to delete, then press **Del** (Windows) or click **File** and click **Delete from Library** there (Mac). You may be prompted to confirm this decision.

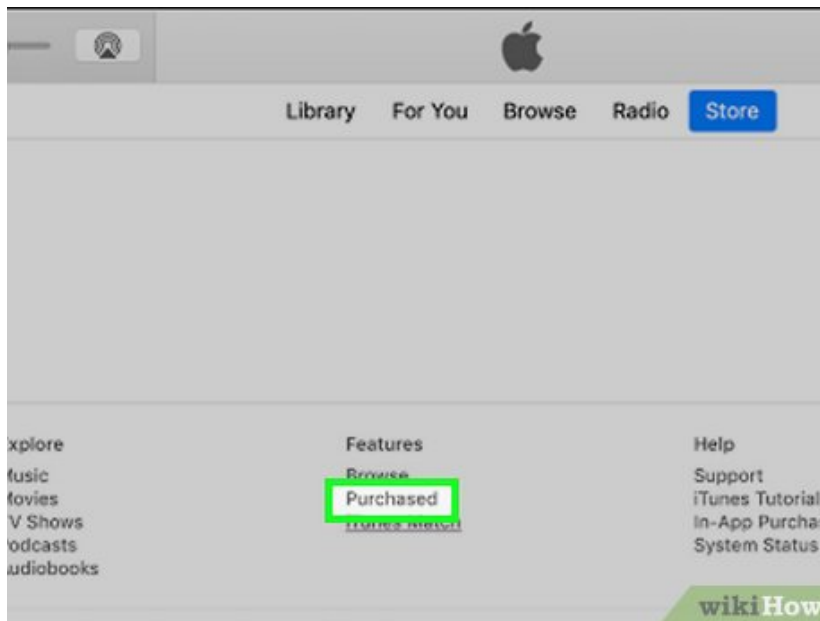
1. If the protected music file is on your computer, you may see a prompt asking whether or not you want to keep the music file or move it to the Recycle Bin (Windows) or Trash (Mac) as well. It's best to delete the file to avoid confusion later.



6.

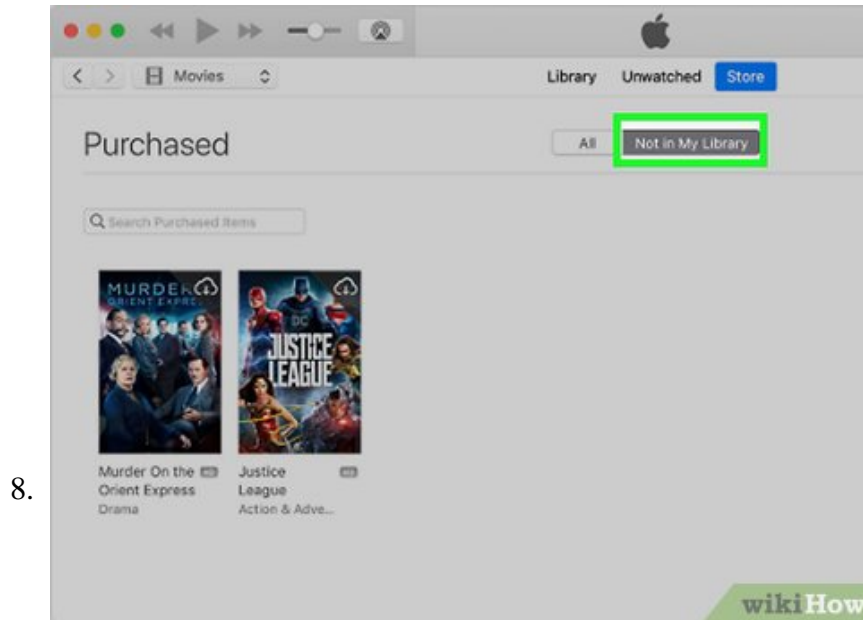
Click **Store** (Windows) or **iTunes Store** (Mac). It's a tab near the top of the iTunes window. Doing so will open the iTunes Store tab.

1. If iTunes won't connect to the Store section, make sure that you're connected to the Internet.

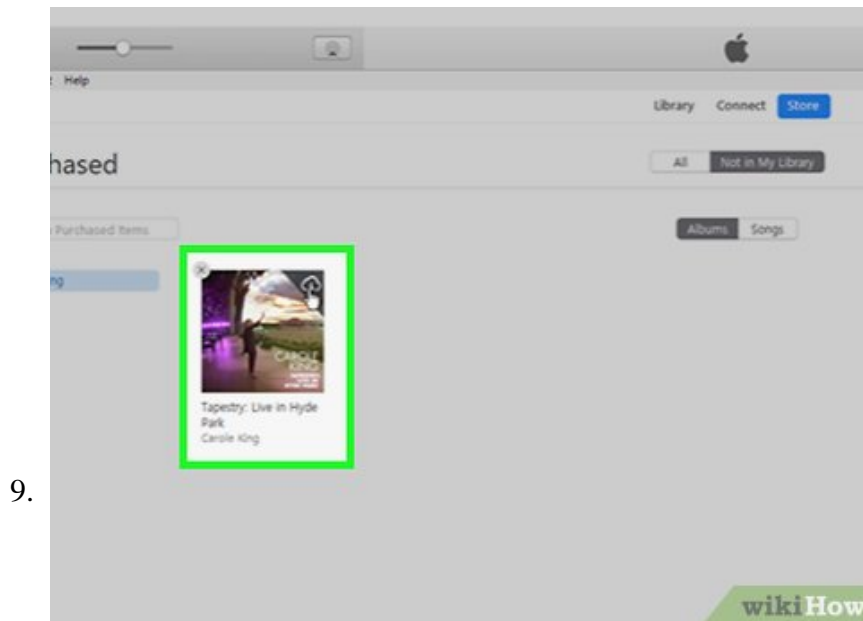


7.

Click the **Purchased** link. This is in the lower-right side of the iTunes window.

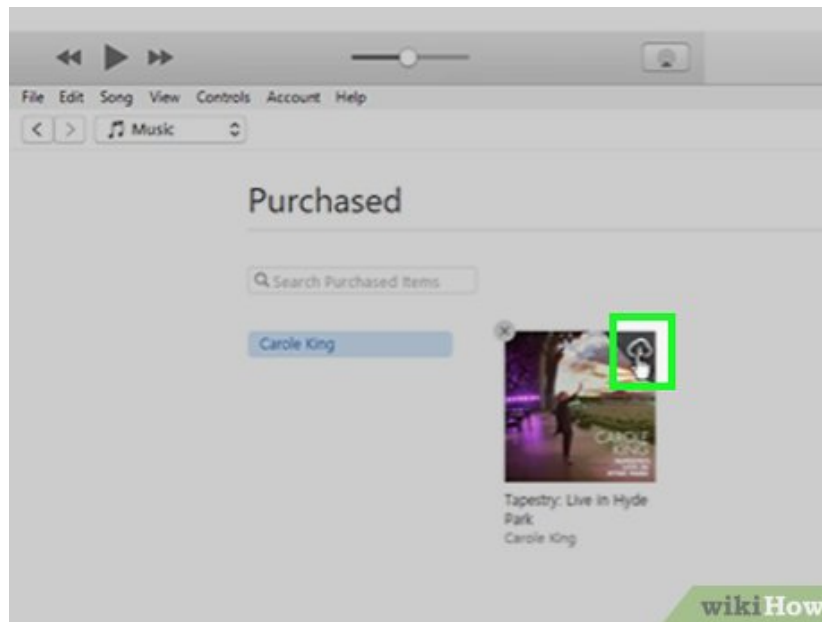


Click **Not in My Library**. It's a tab at the top of the iTunes window. This will prompt the iTunes Store to show only purchased music that isn't currently in your library, which should include the music that you deleted earlier.



Find your music. Look for the song(s) or album(s) that you deleted.

10.



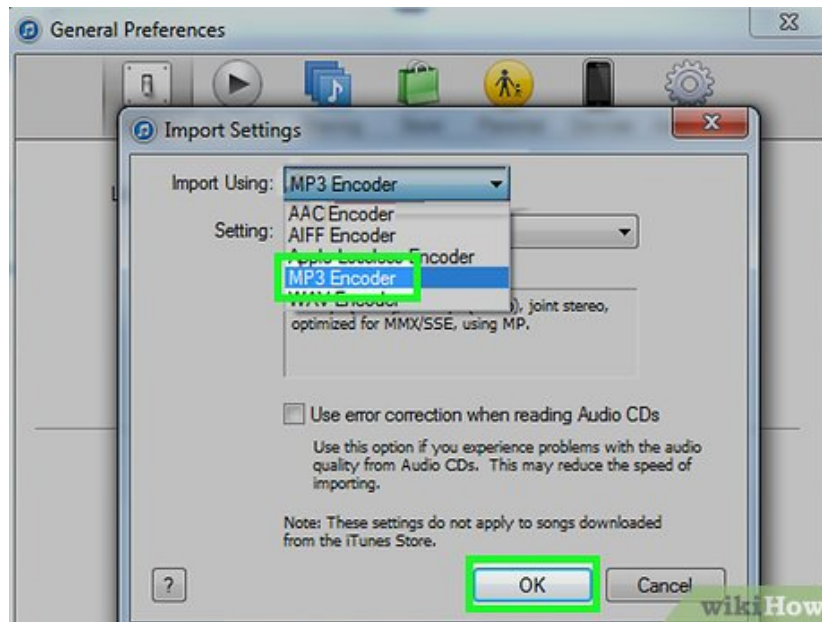
Click the "Download" icon



. This cloud-shaped icon should be near the song or album. Clicking it will prompt the unprotected version of the song or album to download onto your computer.

1. The version of the song that will download is M4A, which is an iTunes-supported audio format. If you don't need to play the song(s) in question outside of iTunes, you don't need to convert the music to MP3.

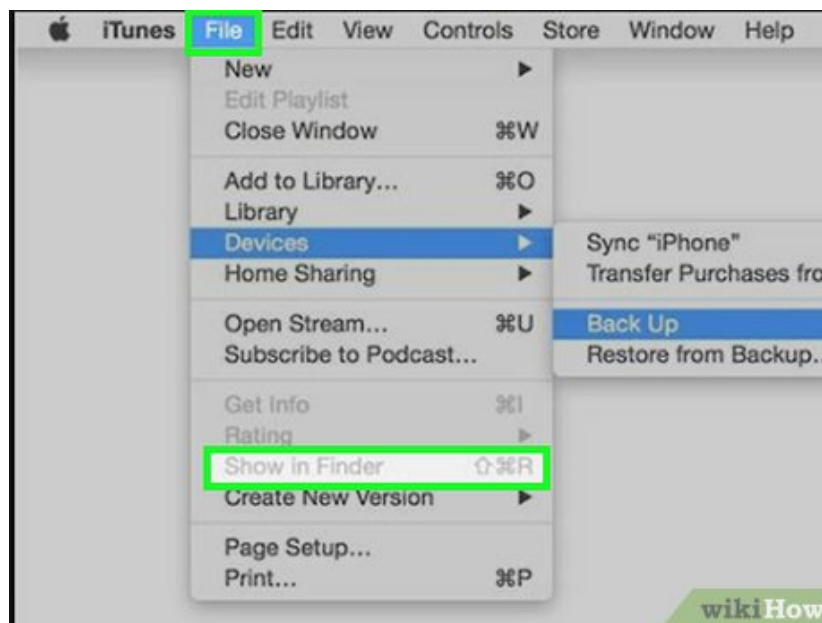
11.



Convert the unprotected music to MP3. To create MP3 versions of the music that you re-downloaded, select a song, click the **File** menu item, select **Convert** in the drop-down menu, and click **Create MP3 Version** in the pop-out menu. If the **Create MP3 Version** option doesn't appear here, you can enable it by doing the following:

1. Click the **Edit** (Windows) or **iTunes** (Mac) menu item.
2. Click **Preferences...** in the drop-down menu.
3. Click **Import Settings** (if you don't see this option, make sure that you're on the **General** tab).
4. Click the "Import Using" drop-down box.
5. Click **MP3 Encoding** in the resulting menu.
6. Click **OK** twice.

12.



Go to your converted music. You can see your converted music's folder location on your computer by clicking a song or album, clicking **File**, and clicking **Show in Windows Explorer** (Windows) or **Show in**

Finder (Mac).

1. Doing this for one converted song will take you to the folder in which all of your downloaded music is.

Method 2 of 2:

Converting via a Burned CD

1. **Understand how this method works.** If you have protected iTunes audio files that you can't (or don't want to) convert with iTunes Match, you can burn the files onto a CD and then move the files from the CD back onto your computer in MP3 format. This method won't always work, and it will result in a minor loss in audio quality.



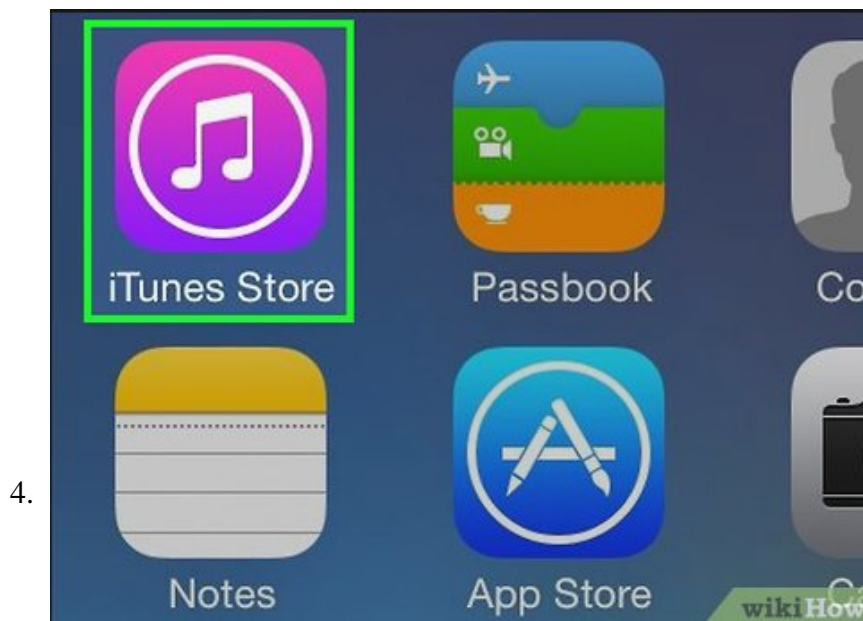
Make sure that you have a blank CD-RW. The "RW" part stands for "Read/Write", meaning that you can erase and reuse the CD-RW after burning it. This makes it useful for converting large groups of protected music.

1. You can use a blank CD-R, but you'll only be able to use it once. This will be a hassle if you plan on converting more than one CD's worth of music.



Insert a CD-RW into your computer's DVD drive. The DVD drive should have the word "DVD" written on it or near it; if you don't see the word "DVD" here—or if your computer doesn't have a disc slot at all—you'll first need to buy and plug in a USB DVD player.

1. Again, the CD-RW must be blank.
2. USB DVD drives connect to your computer via a USB cable. If your computer uses USB-C (oval) ports rather than the traditional USB 3.0 (rectangular) ports, you'll need to buy a USB-C DVD drive (or a USB 3.0 to USB-C adapter).



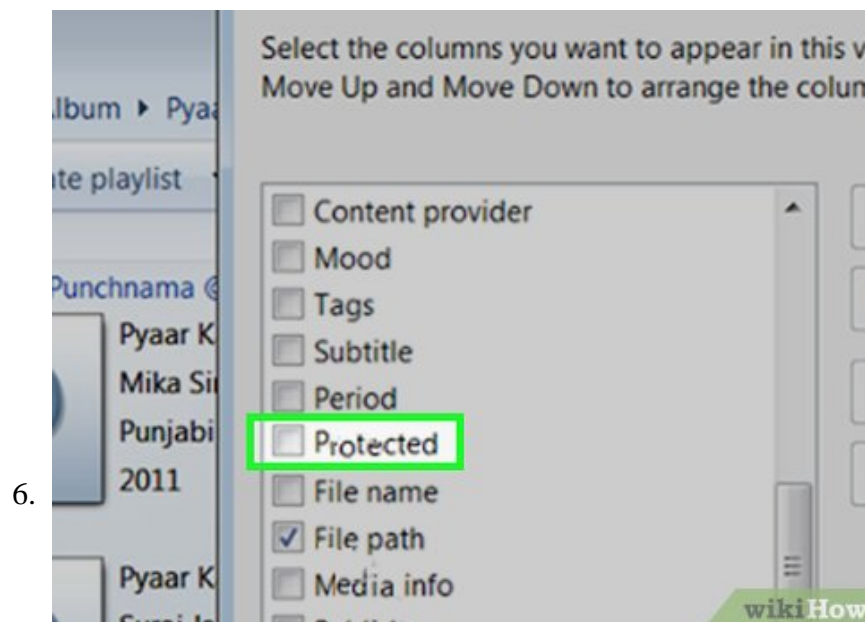
Open iTunes. Its app icon resembles a multicolored musical note on a white background.

1. You may be prompted to update iTunes. If so, click **Download iTunes** in the prompt window, then allow iTunes to update. You will have to restart your computer before proceeding.

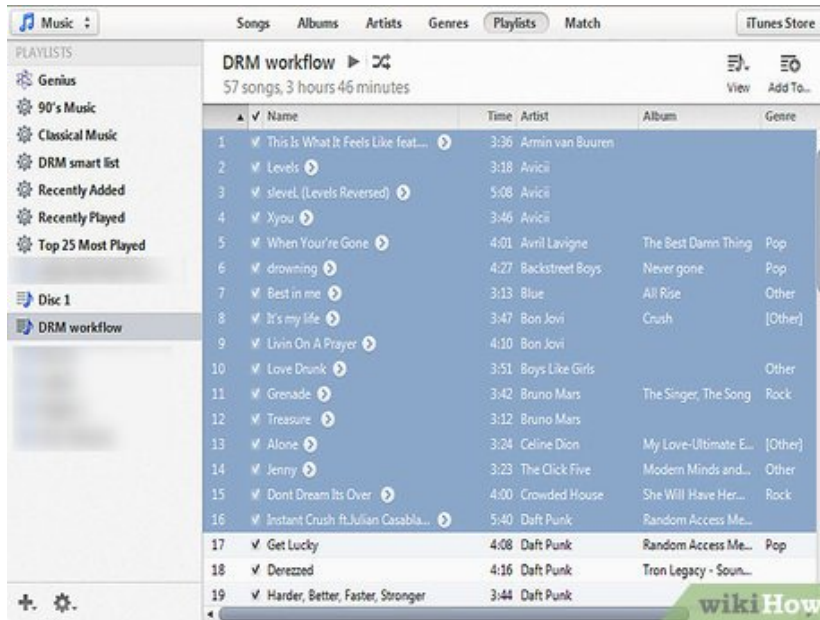


Sort your music by file type. Click the **Kind** tab above your music library list to do so. If you don't see the **Kind** tab, you can enable it by right-clicking the music sorting options bar and then clicking the "Kind" checkbox.

1. Right-click the sorting options bar at the top of your iTunes library.



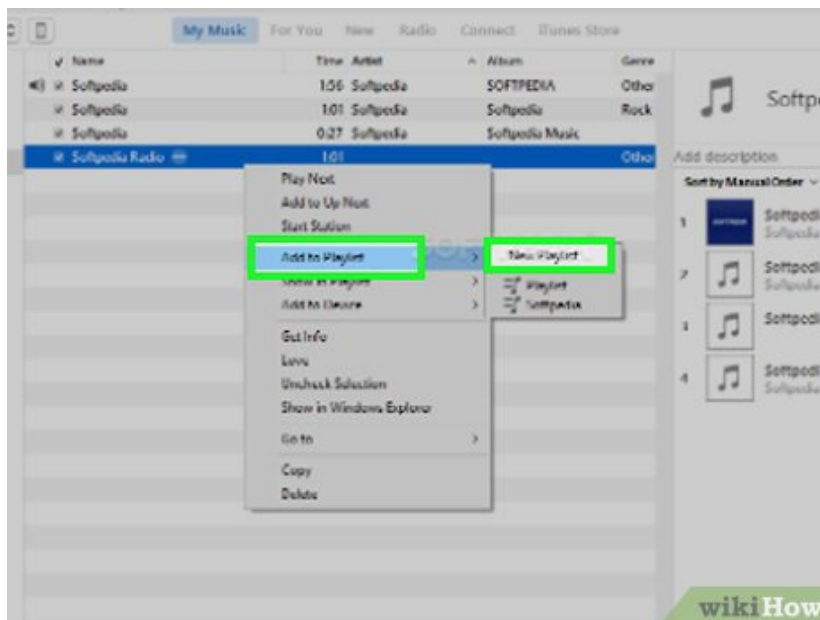
Find protected audio files. Look for files with "M4P" listed in the **Kind** column; any M4P file is a protected iTunes file.



7.

Select up to 80 minutes of music. Hold down **Ctrl** (or **Command** on a Mac) while clicking each song that you want to convert. You should see each song row that you click change color.

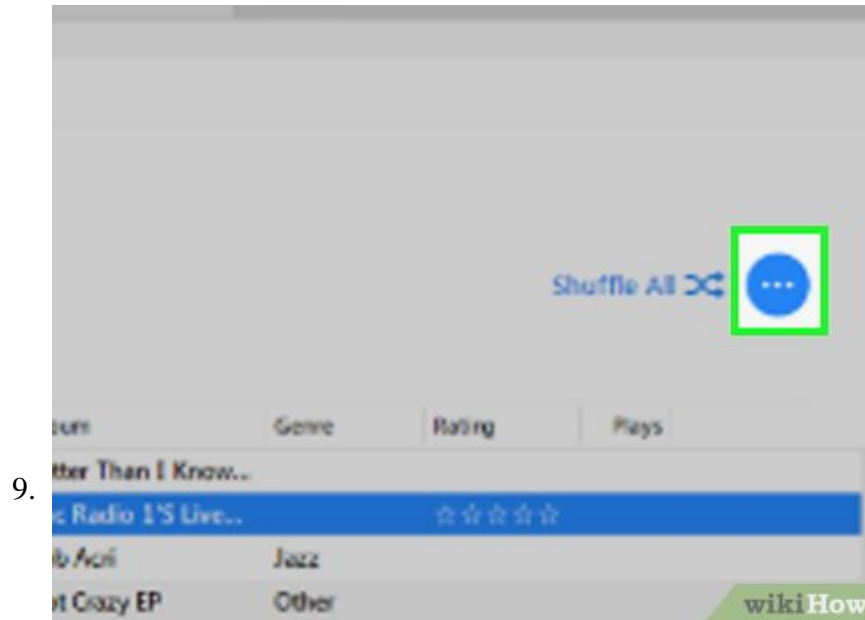
1. While most CD-RWs can store around 80 minutes of music, this is not an exact figure—some CD-RWs may be able to hold a few more minutes, while others may hold a few fewer minutes.



8.

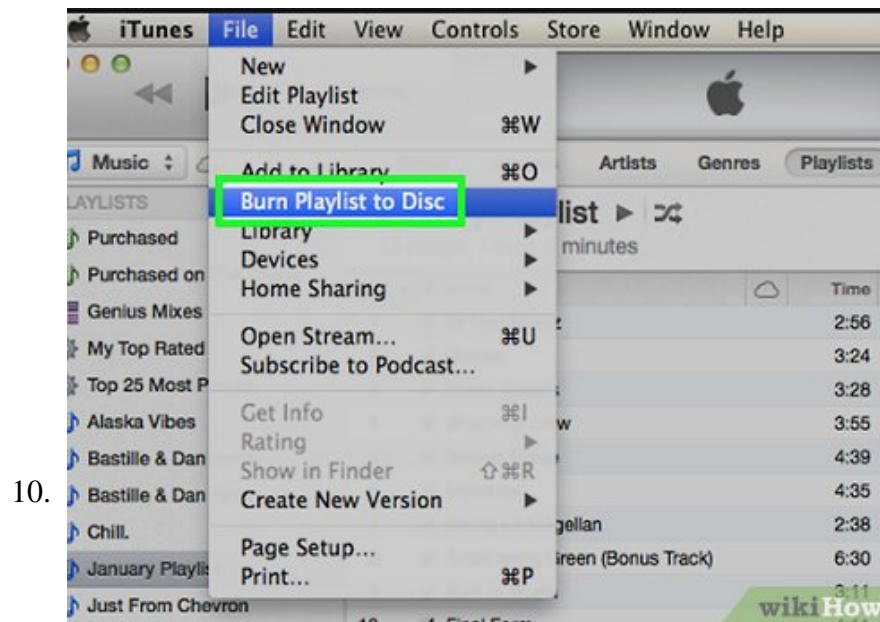
Create a new playlist for the files. Right-click one of the selected songs, select **Add to Playlist** in the drop-down menu, click **New Playlist**, and type in a name for the playlist.

1. You can also add the music to an existing playlist by clicking and dragging the music onto the playlist's name on the left-hand side of iTunes.



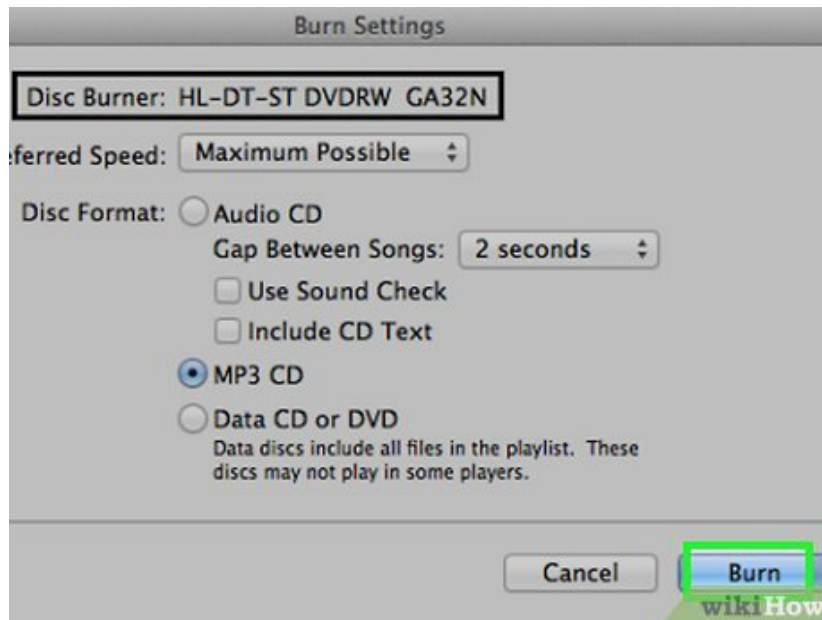
Click **[?]**. It's on a blue button in the upper-right side of the playlist's page. A drop-down menu will appear.

1. You may first have to click the playlist's name on the left side of the iTunes window to open the playlist.



Click **[Burn Playlist to Disc]**. It's in the drop-down menu. This will prompt a new window to open.

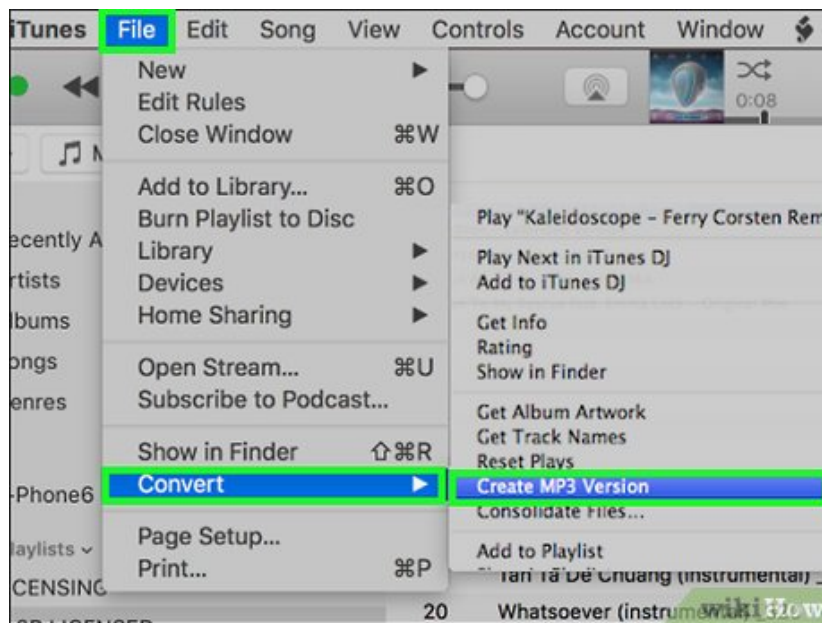
11.



Create the MP3 disc. Check the "MP3 CD" box, then click **Burn** at the bottom of the window. Your playlist's music will begin burning onto the CD in MP3 format.

1. The CD may take up to a minute per song to burn, so be patient.

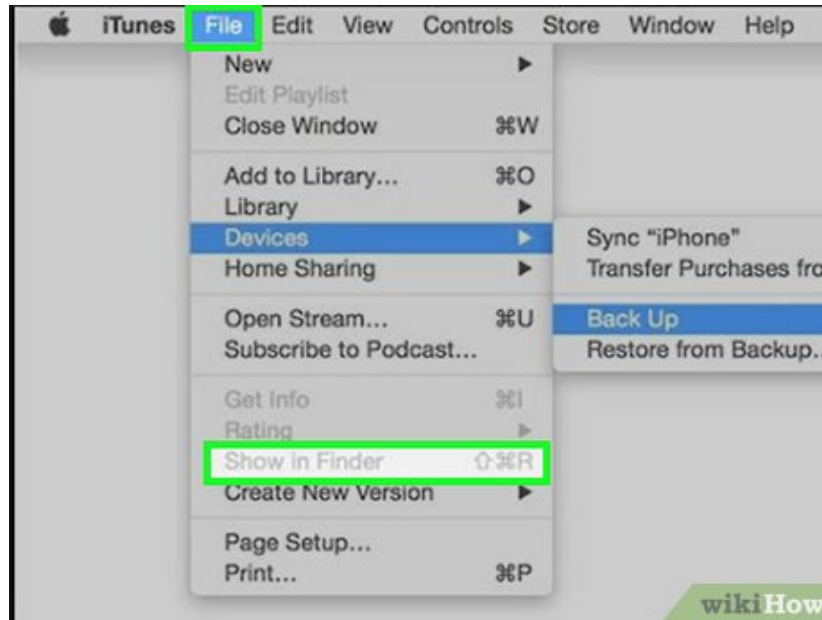
12.



Move the CD's MP3s onto your computer. Once you've created the CD, you should be able to open the CD inside of iTunes, select the contents of the CD, and create MP3 versions of the music on the CD by clicking **File**, selecting **Convert** in the drop-down menu, and clicking **Create MP3 Version** in the pop-out menu.

1. You can delete the protected versions of the music off of your computer once you've finished moving the MP3s back onto it.

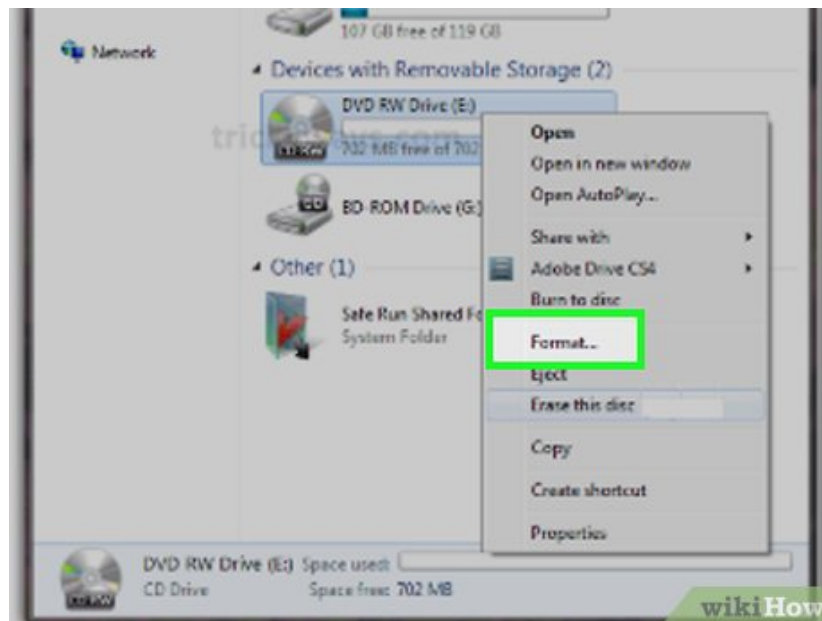
13.



Go to your converted music. You can see your new music's location on your computer by clicking a converted song or album, clicking **File**, and clicking **Show in Windows Explorer** (Windows) or **Show in Finder** (Mac).

1. Doing this for one converted song will take you to the folder in which all of your downloaded music is.

14.



Format the CD before burning more music. If you want to convert another 80 minutes of music, you can format the CD-RW to erase the disc. You can format most CD-RWs up to 1000 times before the CD is unusable.

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