DIGITAL CONVERTING: VINYL TO MP3

Music Hall usb-1 Vinyl Player

Available in the Sound Studio is the Music Hall usb-1. The Music Hall usb-1 is a vinyl player compatible with 33 and 45 records. It does not have a speed setting for 78 records. There are no built-in speakers on the vinyl player. The Music Hall connects to the iMac using a USB cable, and plays the vinyl record using the iMac speakers. The EZ Vinyl Converter software will record the vinyl and covert it to mp3 digital format.

For more info, go to *musichallaudio.com/product/usb-1-turntable/*

Using the EZ Vinyl Converter Software

EZ Vinyl Converter is free to install on any computer, and is available on the Sound Studio's iMac. After recording, EZ Vinyl Converter will automatically save the mp3 files to the iTunes Library.

If using a Windows PC, all the steps are the same, except the mp3 files won't automatically save to the iTunes Library.

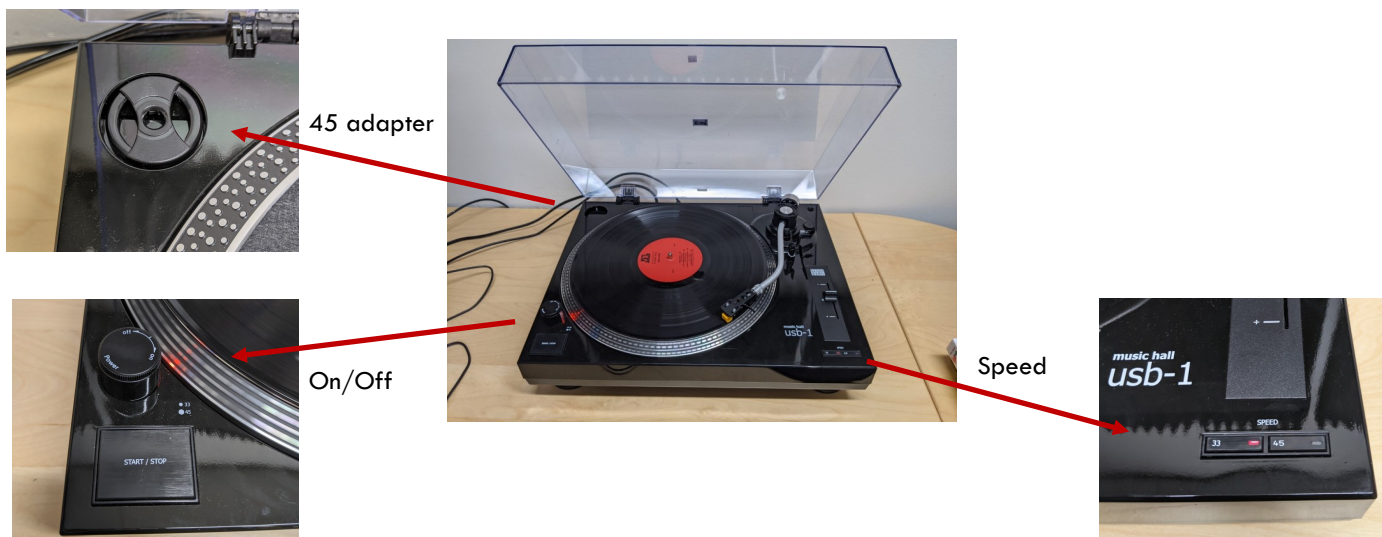For more resources, visit *ionaudio.com/ez-converter*

What's the difference between 33, 45, and 78 records?

The number refers to the speed, which is measured by rotations per minute (RPM). The faster the speed, the better the sound.

♦ 33 — technically 33 1/3 RPM, became the standard by the 1950s and is the most common

♦ 45 — 45 RPM have wider hole that requires an adaptor. Since most were pressed with one song per side, these were often used for singles

♦ 78 — refers to 78 RPM, this was the standard from 1925-1950

Set Up the Vinyl Player

1. Confirm the power cord and USB cables are plugged in.
2. Remove the felt pad.
3. Place your record on the turn table. For 45 records, use the 45 adapter found in the back left corner.
4. Turn the Music Hall usb-1 on using the switch in the front left.
5. Use the Speed buttons in the front right to set the RPM to 33 or 45.
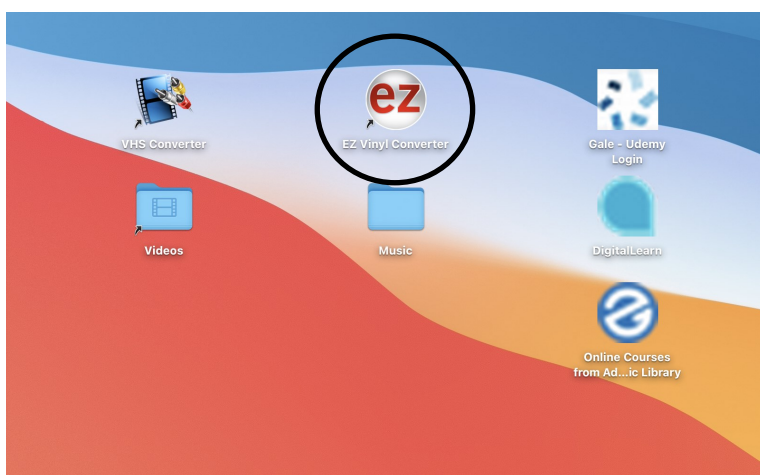6. Press the Start button in the front left corner.

45 adapter

On/Off

Speed

Open EZ Vinyl Software

1. Find the EZ Vinyl Converter icon on the desktop.
2. Double-click to open.
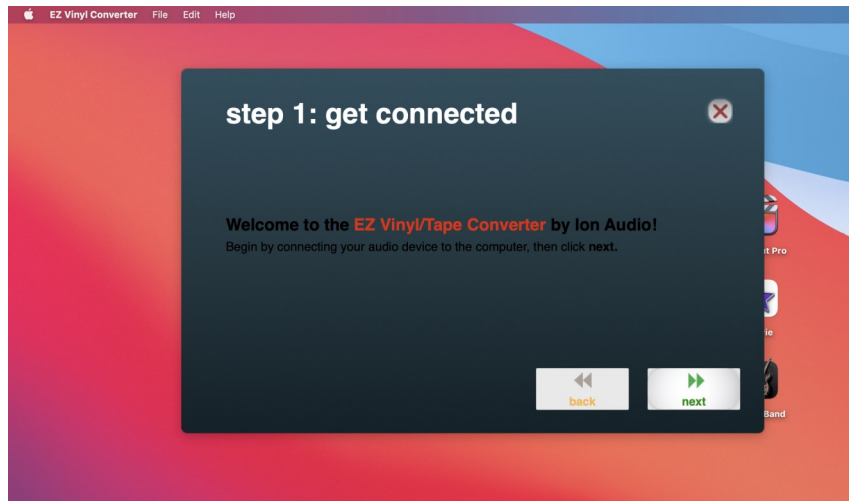
Alternative Method

1. Click "Go" in the Top Menu.
2. Click "Applications."
3. Find "EZ Vinyl Converter" in the list of Applications.
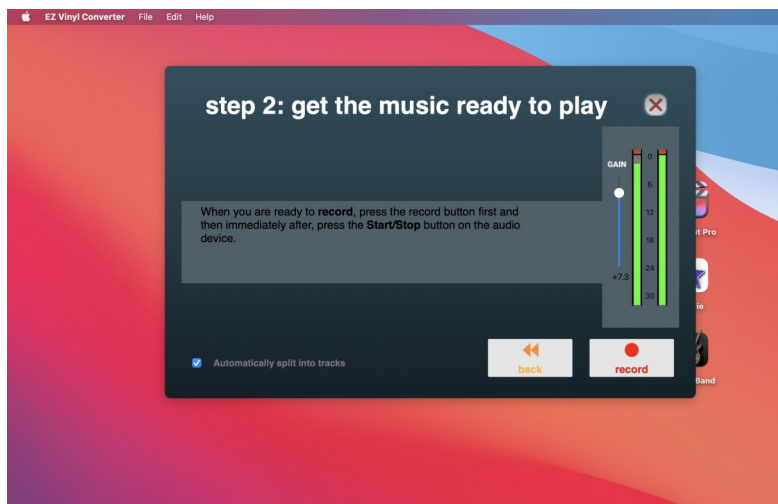4. Double-click to open.

Record the Songs

Follow the prompts on EZ Vinyl Converter.

1. Confirm the Music Hall usb-1 player is on and connected to the iMac.
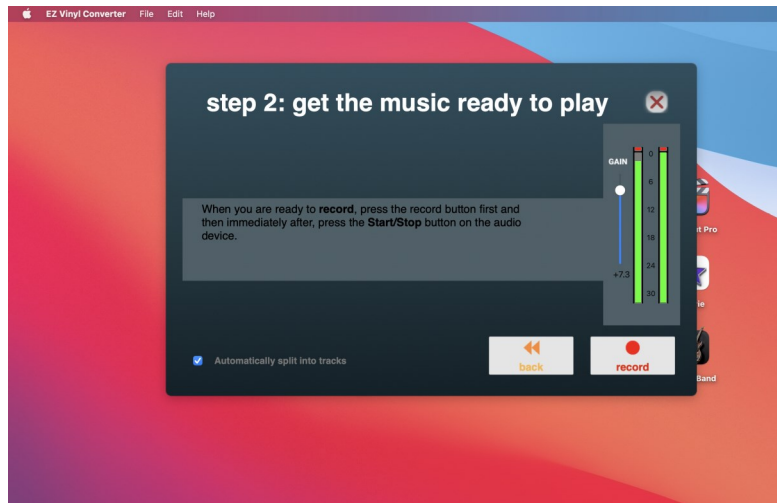
2. Click "Next."

3. Gently place the needle on the record.

4. You should hear the music playing from the iMac speaker. You should also see a green bar that moves up and down. The green bar shows how "loud" the music is.

5. Adjust the "Gain" as needed so the green bars stay around the middle.
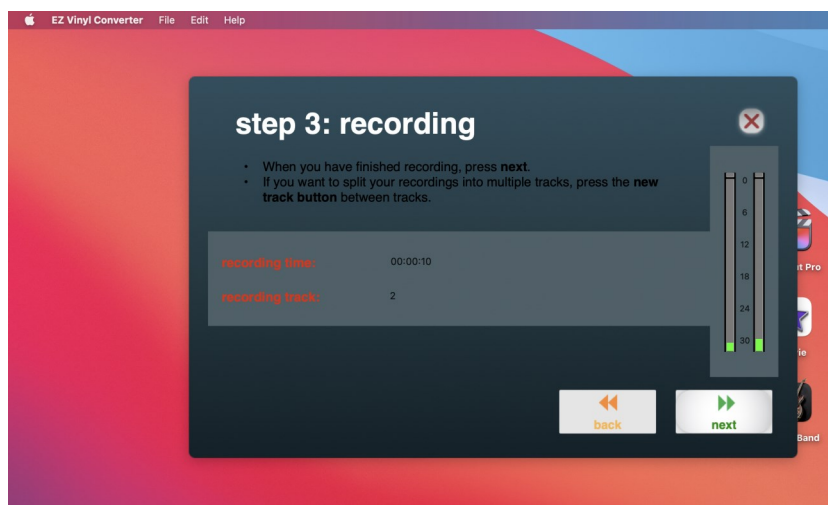

What is "Gain"?

Gain controls how loud the music is during recording, whereas volume is the setting on your speakers to control how loud it is during playback. If the Gain is high—and the green bars hit the red at the top—the audio won't sound clean. If the Gain is low—and the green bars stay at the bottom—it will be hard to hear the music during playback.

6. Check the box for "Automatically split into tracks." This will separate the music into tracks when the software notices a pause in the music. This works really well for most albums since there are breaks between songs. However, songs with long pauses might accidentally get split into tracks, unless this box is unchecked.

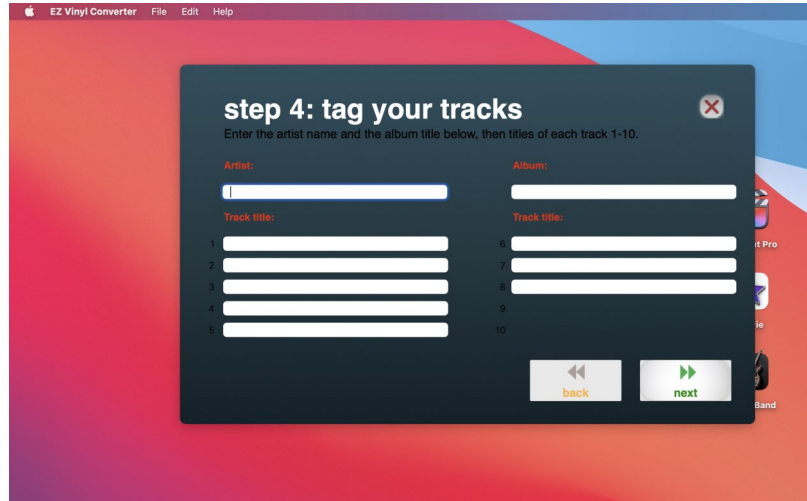7. Reset your needle to the beginning of the album or song. Click "Record."

8. EZ Converter will start recording the tracks. It records in "real time," so if your album is 20 minutes long, it will take 20 minutes to record.

9. If "Automatically split into tracks" was checked, you should notice the number of "Recording Tracks" increase when there are pauses between songs.

10. Once it's recorded all the tracks, click "Next."

11. Fill in the Artist, Album, and Track Names accordingly.
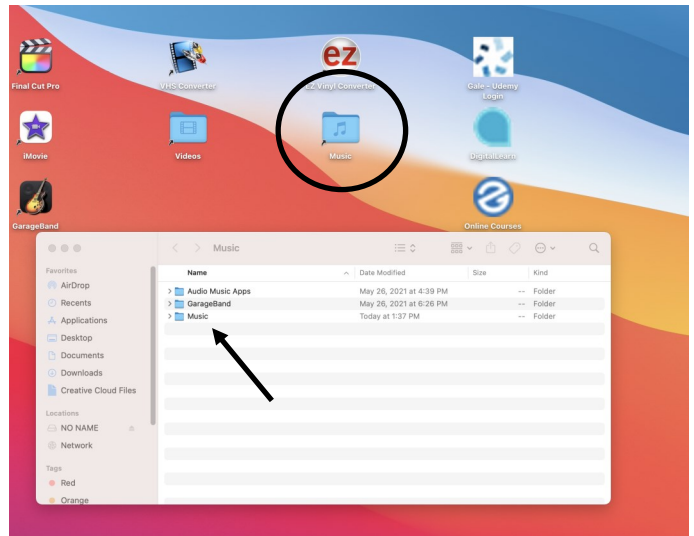
12. Click "Next."

13. EZ Vinyl Convert will automatically export the mp3 files to the iTunes Music Library.
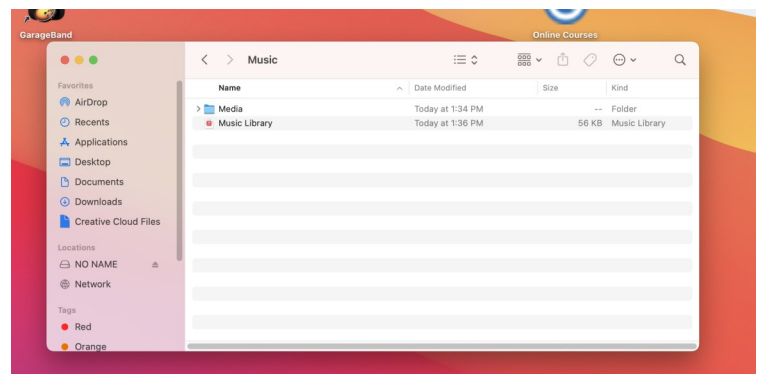
Copy the mp3 Files to a USB

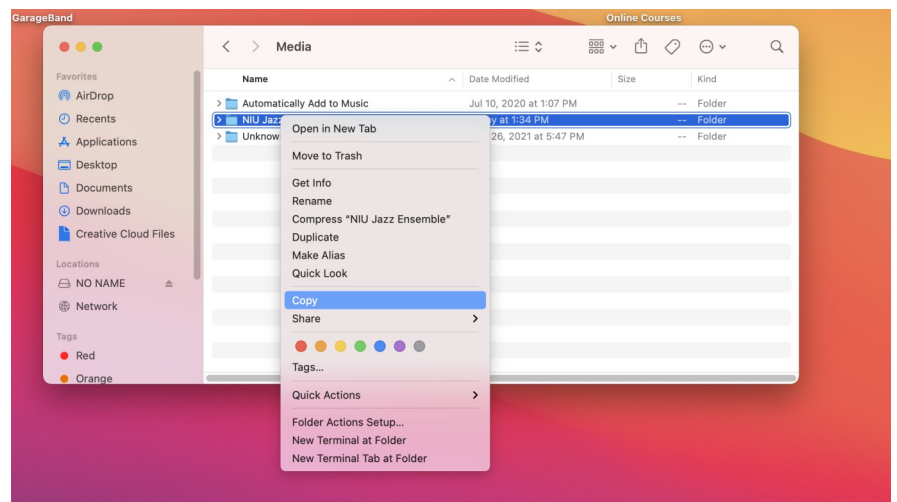The last step is to find the mp3 files so they can be copied to your USB or uploaded to Cloud Storage.

1. Open the Music folder on the Desktop.

2. Inside the main "Music" folder is a second "Music" folder for iTunes. Click to open.

3. Open the "Media" folder.

4. The folders inside Media should be named after the artist and ordered alphabetically.

5. Find the folder for the artist. Right-click to open the menu and click "Copy."

6. Go to the folder for your USB and click "Paste."

Troubleshooting

When I start EZ Vinyl Converter, I get an error message that says, "Device not found"

- Make sure only the Music Hall USB-1 is connected to the computer. If the cassette tape player or other audio-recording device is connected, the software won't work.

The recording is too quiet

- Increase the Gain and re-record. This should help make the recording louder when you listen to it.

The recording is too loud

- Decrease the Gain and re-record. This should help make the recording softer when you listen to it.

The software is not splitting the tracks properly // The song was split into multiple tracks

- The software has an "Automatically split into tracks" feature. It splits the tracks based on pauses or quiet moments in the song. This means that if there is a dramatic pause in your song, it will split it into more than one track. This also happens a lot if your recording is spoken word (short stories, speeches, etc.)

- Uncheck the "Automatically split into tracks."

- When recording, there will be a "Manually split track" button. Click that button when one tracks ends but before the next track begins.

The vinyl record sounds distorted // lots of crackling // lots of static

- This usually means that the needle is wearing down and needs to be replaced. (See staff.)

The vinyl record sounds like it's spinning too fast // spinning too slow

- Check the speed setting. There are 3 types of vinyl records: 33, 45, and 78

- The Music Hall USB-1 does not have a speed setting for 78 records.

- Check the label on the vinyl record to see if it's a 33 or 45 record. Set the speed on the Music Hall USB-1 to match the label on the record.

The vinyl record doesn't fit on the turn-table // the vinyl record has a big opening

- It's most likely a 45 record. Use the 45 adapter that is stored by the left hinge.