

## Windows Laptop Microphone-Input Connection



The Mic-In connection of a Windows Laptop (many times pink) is designed so you can connect an analog computer microphone...



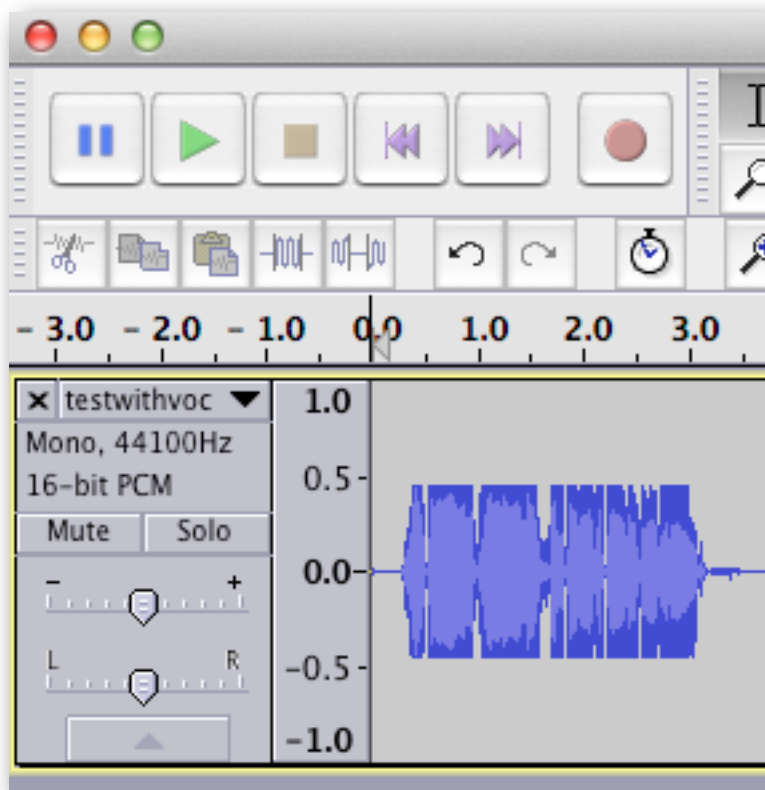
...or analog computer headset (matching earphones and microphone) suitable for Skype, Google gchat, Apple ichtat or other conferencing or communications.



Unfortunately, they use the same plug and socket as a normal stereo audio connection.



Mic-In on many computers is a special purpose connection designed expressly for microphones and has a very difficult time with other connections.



One reaction when you record through the wrong connection by accident is a very odd blue wave pattern on the time line.

This is what massive overload and “audio clipping” looks like. The sound is buzzy, crunchy and very harsh.

It’s also common for the audio to be in mono (one track) whether you started out in stereo (two tracks) or not.

The damage is permanent and can’t be fixed with post production repairs, filters or effects.



A good way to solve this problem (if you don't have a blue stereo sound connection) is to install a stereo USB adapter such as the Behringer UCA-202. Other soundcards will do this job, but this one seems to have the sweet spot of low cost, reliability and high quality.



Behringer also makes a UFO-202 which has a built in-phono preamplifier. You can connect your classic, stand-alone (non-USB) turntable and capture phonograph records that way.



Not all USB sound adapters will do high quality stereo transfers.

For one example, the Startech ICUSBAUDIO is an external USB sound adapter that just duplicates the headset and Mic-In connections you already have.