

AC3-DTS-Software

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

All pricing is current in October 2014 but certainly not guaranteed.

1. **ac3Filter-Tools** (free)

www.ac3filter.net

This is an amazing collection of command-line audio utility programs. Don't let their being "command-line" scare you, they are easy to use and the command line syntax is explained in the documentation. I won't describe them all, but I found three to be very useful.

>ac3enc input-file-name.wav output-file-name.ac3 Converts and input wav file (PCM format) to an output ac3 file. A six channel wav file is converted to a six channel ac3 file. A bit rate conversion is also performed if that option is added to the command line – see the documentation.

>bsconvert file-name.ac3 Prints the actual file format

>bsconvert file-name.wav file-name.ac3 Converts an ac3 wav file to actual ac3 file

>valdec file-name.ac3 file-name.wav Decodes an ac3 (or dts) file to a multi-channel wav file. Command-line options are available – see the documentation. This one is useful for converting a ripped dts file to a multi-channel wav file.

2. **ac3Tool10** (free)

www.digital-digest.com/dvd/downloads/showsoftware_ac3tool_152.html

This utility program is useful. Click the AC3 Analysis tab to select a drive, folder and ac3 file name. All subsequent operations are performed on this file. Clicking the Analysis bar gets you a list of the file's parameters. Clicking the AC3>WAV tab displays a screen with lots of selection capability. For example, you can convert the 5.1 ac3 file to a mono, stereo or anything up to a 5.1 wav file. I discovered that the LFE channel is omitted from a 5.1 wav file unless the "No downmix, use the LFE box" box is checked. The conversion is fast BUT check the channel order to be sure it's correct.

3. **AnyMP4 Video Converter** (\$35.00US)

www.anymp4.com

Supports many file types for conversion but does not support multi-channel output files.

Converts a 5.1 ac3 file to stereo wav.

4. **Audacity** (free)

audacity.sourceforge.net

This audio editor is really a mini Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). I made many references to its use in Part 4 of this series so take a look at the article so I won't have to repeat that info here. Highly recommended.

5. **AVS Audio Converter** (check the web site for price of using their bundled software)

www.avs4you.com

The Audio Converter and Audio Editor are both very useful. The editor displays all six channel of a 5.1 file and the file sample rate and bit depth conversion options are comprehensive and easy to use. Highly recommended.

6. Cirlina HD Solo Ultra (\$68.95US)

www.cirlinca.com

Accepts 6 mono wav files or a 6-channel interleaved wav file as input and produces a DVD-Audio or DVD-Video (without video if desired). It will either write directly to the DVD or create an iso file (disc image) on your hard drive for making multiple DVD copies. It will also do the above as an ac3 audio file by selecting the a/52 codec in the DVD tab. For this option to work, you must install the ac3 codec from a free download from the cirlinca site – instructions are provided. Blue-ray discs are supported.

7. Faasoft Audio Converter (\$25.00US)

www.faasoft.com

Supports many file types for conversion but does not support multi-channel output files. Converts a 5.1 dts wav file to stereo ac3.

8. iDealshare Video (\$29.99US)

www.idealshare.net

A program that does not do what it claims, that is, convert ac3 to dts. This is really not possible because a dts file contains more information than is in an ac3 file. However, it claims to convert dts to ac3 or wav and it does not do that either.

9. ImToo Audio Maker (\$39.95US)

www.imtoo.com

This program accepts a 5.1 ac3 file input, does the conversion and writes an audio CD. However, the CD is just stereo. It does not handle multi-channel files. It will also rip CDs which could be useful if you don't have another program for that.

10. Luminar Audio Converter Pro ver 0.9.3 (\$35.00)

www.luminarsoftware.co.uk

This is a nice program that properly converts a 6-channel wav file to a 6 channel ac3 file. It has a large number of built-in codecs for a variety of conversions but the wav to ac3 is the only one I tested. Beware of a pop-up screen that offers a free update to ver 0.9.7. This is a totally different program, screen does not look even similar, and as far as I could tell – it doesn't work.

11. NCH Sound Switch (\$29.99)

www.nch.com

Supports many file types for conversion but does not support multi-channel output files. Converts a 5.1 dts wav file to stereo ac3.

A companion program, NCH Sound Tap (\$29.99) captures and records streaming audio from internet sources – might be useful.

12 . Pavtube HD Video Converter (\$35.00 US)

www.pavtube.com

Their advertising says: “Convert 6 Channel Audio only AAC, WAV, DTS to AC3, MP3, WMA.” It won’t convert AAC to AC3 or WAV to AC3. I couldn’t find any useful thing it could do.

13. Surcode CD-DTS (\$99.00 US)

www.minnetonkaaudio.com

A program that accepts 6 mono wav files and generates a dts encoded wav file that can be played or burnt to a CD. The file add screen prompts you with the channel position. It will also play the encoded file – if it can find your sound card.

14. Surcode DVD-DTS (\$249.00US)

www.minnetonkaaudio.com

An advanced version of their CD-DTS program. In addition to generating a dts encoded stereo wav file, the DVD version optionally produces a real dts file at 48 ksps for making a DVD-Audio or DVD-Video.

15. Total Audio MP3 Converter (\$19.99)

www.hootech.com

Supports many file types for conversion and seems to work fine. Converts a 5.1 ac3 file to a 5.1 wav file at the original sample rate. Also converts a 5.1 dts wav file to a 5.1 ac3 file keeping the original sample rate.

16. Vortex Surround Encoder (\$19.99)

www.vortexzoom.com

A very nice program to convert six mono files to a 5.1 dts wav file. The resulting stereo wav file is dts encoded and can be played using VLC Media Player (and others) or burnt to a CD. The File Add screen prompts you with the channel name so you can enter the wav file names in the correct sequence. It will also de-interleave an interleaved file using the Unglue option in the Tools tab, for example, you can extract the original 6 wav files from secrets44.wav.

17. WAVtoAC3 Encoder (FREE)

code.google.com/p/wavtoac3encoder/

This software creates a 5.1 ac3 file from six mono wav files (44.1 ksps and 16-bits to be CD compatible). I like using the MUX Wizard tab to add the wav file names to the corresponding speaker positions. Also, for CD compatibility set the Bitrate slider to 384 kbps or else the program defaults to converting the output file to a 48 kbps sample rate which is OK for DVDs. Enter the output file name and location but you can leave the other tabs and boxes at their default settings.