Computer Music
Audio Quality

Table 4–Comparison of Ripping Software (CD to WAV)

RIPPING SOFTWARE	AVERAGE RIP SPEED [a]	LISTENING OBSERVATIONS	SOUND SCORE
dBPA	21.5x	A popular ripping program that also rips simultaneously in multiple codecs. Best rhythm and pace and overall sound quality of WAV files	140
Foobar 2000	23x	Very good performance but not a full-featured program	135
JRMC	3.7x	The best multi-purpose software that also provides excellent CD rips	130
Easy CD-DA Extractor Premium v. 2010.6 (Easy CD-DA) [$32]	3.6x	As a dedicated ripping program, performance is above average but falls short of the best available	120
Exact Audio Copy (EAC)	7.3x	Not quite as much low level information and hence not as musical or delicate as Easy CD-DA	110
Goldwave	2.6x	Average ripping performance	105
iTunes	7.5x	Increasingly more tinny (fewer harmonic overtones), harsh, two-dimensional, less detailed and textured from here on down	95
Media Monkey	~20x	Below average ripping performance	85
Winamp	7.6x	Well below average ripping performance	75
Nero v. 9.0.9.4	7.3x	Jack of all trades but not optimized for music apparently	60

[a] All tracks were ripped as WAV files to the HD at 4x or the slowest speed allowed by the options available in each program. All tracks were subjected to a bit-by-bit comparison in EAC and found to be identical.