

# Peak Tutorial: Creating a Continuous Mix "DJ Style" CD





# Creating a Continuous Mix “DJ Style” CD

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## Introduction

This tutorial will guide you through the process of creating a continuous mix audio CD in Peak. A continuous mix is typically found on commercially produced CDs of DJ mixes or live concerts. Continuous mix CDs contain separate tracks, just like standard audio CDs, so that the listener can navigate the CD, but there are no gaps or pauses between tracks. The end result is that if you listen to the CD from beginning to end, it sounds like one long track, with no interruptions between songs.

To create a continuous mix audio CD, you’ll need to have audio (such as a DJ mix or concert – though any audio will work) recorded and saved to your hard drive. This type of audio material is generally found as a single long audio document, and that’s the type of example we’ll be working with in this tutorial.



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*For information on making a compilation CD from many different audio documents, please see the tutorial called “Burning Audio CDs with Peak”, available from the documentation section of the BIAS website.*

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This tutorial assumes that audio has already been recorded and saved.

You’ll follow three main steps to create an audio CD in Peak.

1. Place a Marker in the audio waveform to designate where each song ends, and the next begins.
2. Create Regions, which will become the tracks on your finished CD.
3. Burn the CD.

For more information about Regions and burning CDs, see chapter 6 in your Peak 5 User’s Guide.

## Creating a Continuous Mix CD

Follow the steps below to mark where each song starts and ends. These marked portions of the audio document will serve as guides for creating Regions, the next step in the process.



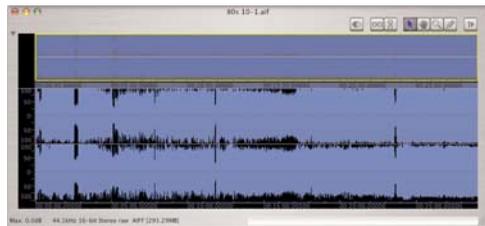
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*The steps outlined below work for Peak LE or Peak Pro. Peak Pro users should also see the next section, which shows a slightly different technique that uses a feature only found in the Pro edition of Peak.*

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### To mark the beginning and end of each song/track:

1. Open a stereo DJ mix or live concert recording in Peak.



Here we have a 30 minute DJ mix, made up of 7 songs

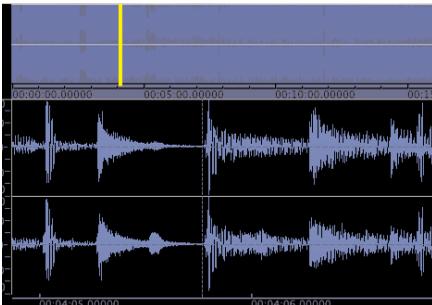
2. In Peak’s waveform overview, locate the mix between songs 1 and 2 (in a live concert recording, this would usually be the section containing audience applause between two songs).

Waveform Overview's Detail Area



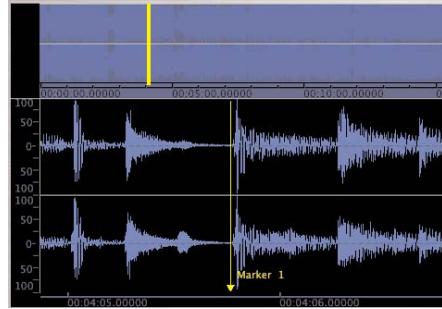
The waveform overview gives a “big picture” view of the whole project – here, we’ve circled the portion of the waveform represented in the overview’s detail area.

3. Zoom in a bit, and click in the overview, just before the mix between songs 1 and 2 – this will cause the main waveform to automatically jump to this part of the file, and will start playback – you may need to audition this part a few times to find the exact location of the transition between the first two songs.
4. Place Peak’s insertion point cursor at the point you would like to be the end of song 1 and the beginning of song 2.



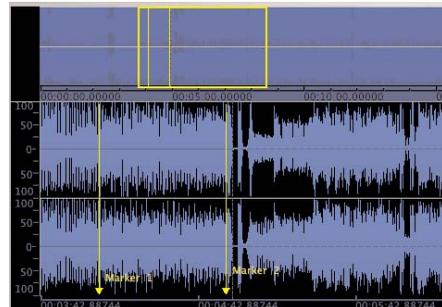
In this picture, the overview’s detail area is very narrow, as we’ve zoom in much further so as to see the waveform better. Note the insertion point/cursor (vertical dotted line) has been placed at the desired location for a CD track ID.

5. From the Action menu, choose New Marker (⌘-M).



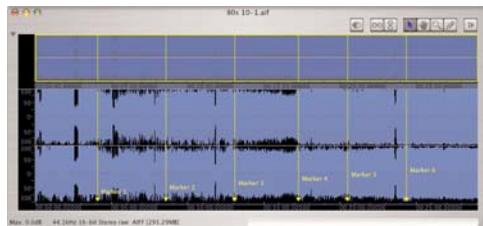
Now we’ve added a marker to indicate the end of song 1 and the beginning of song 2.

6. Repeat for each additional mix between songs.



Here we’ve added a second marker – it shows the end of song 2 and the beginning of song 3...

7. Zoom out all the way.

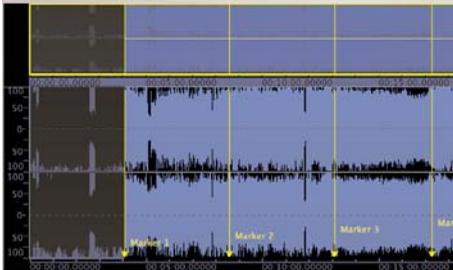


Here’s the whole file, now marked up to indicate each separate song.

The next section shows how to turn each section between markers into a “Region” – each Region will be a separate track when we burn an audio CD.

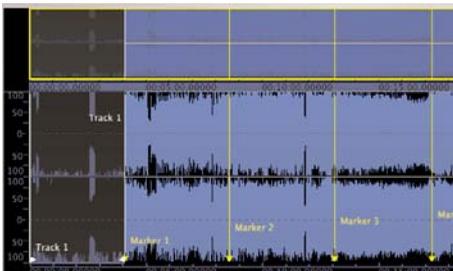
### Creating a Region for each Song/Track

8. -Click in the part of the audio waveform between the left edge of the window and the first marker to select \*just\* that section.



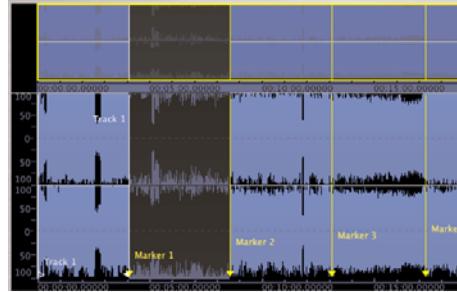
Here we've selected a "target" area of the audio waveform to turn into a Region...

9. From the Action menu, choose New Region – when the Edit Region dialog appears, enter the desired name, and click the OK button.



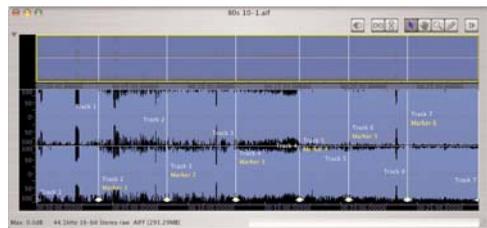
Now we've added Region markers to the selected area of the waveform – this area now has the potential to become a single CD track

10. Press the Tab key to select the space between the next two markers – that is, the space between the first and second markers, or the second song.



Now the second song is selected, and ready to be turned into a Region...

11. Create another Region – this time, use the keyboard shortcut -Shift-R – enter the desired Region name, and click the OK button.
12. Repeat until all the songs have had a Region created for them.



Here's the entire DJ mix – each song is contained within a set of Region markers, and the Regions are all back-to-back, with no space between them.

The next section shows how to burn these Regions as a Red Book audio CD, with no gaps, that will play in any CD player.

### Burning the CD

13. From the Edit menu, choose Select All (-A) – because we want all the Regions burned to CD.



- From the File menu, choose Burn Audio CD.



- In the Burn Audio CD dialog, check the Regions are Tracks checkbox.



*Be sure to check the "Regions are Tracks" checkbox, or else you will end up with a CD with one very long track!*

- Insert a blank CD into your burner and click the Burn button – in few minutes you'll have a continuous mix CD!

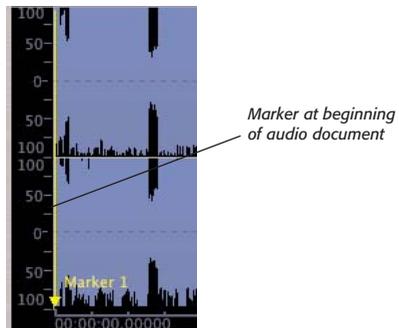
So that's all there is to making continuous mix audio CDs – if you use Peak Pro, read over the next section, as it contains a shortcut for creating Regions.

## Using Peak Pro's Markers to Regions Command

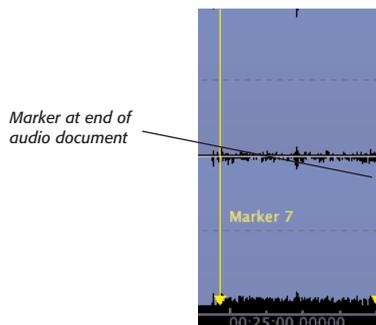
If you're working with the Pro edition, there's a slightly different approach to Region creation, as Peak Pro contains a great feature called Markers to Regions. Just as its name implies this command scans for regular markers, and converts these to Region markers. This can make the process of defining Regions much faster, especially on CDs that contain many tracks.

### Shortcut for Creating Regions in Peak Pro:

- Add a marker at the very beginning of the audio document.



- Add markers at each desired track index point as described in steps 2–7 in the previous section.
- Add another marker at the very end of the audio document.

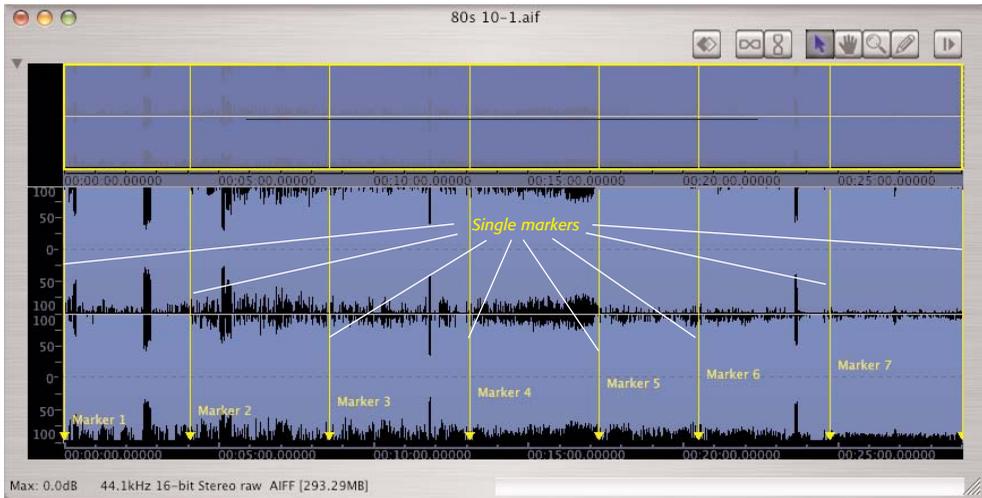


- From the Edit menu, choose Select All (⌘-A).
- From the Action menu, choose Markers to Regions – this command converts each single marker between songs into a Region End marker, and also a Region Begin marker for the following song/track. The very first and very last markers become the beginning of the first Region, and the end of the last Region.

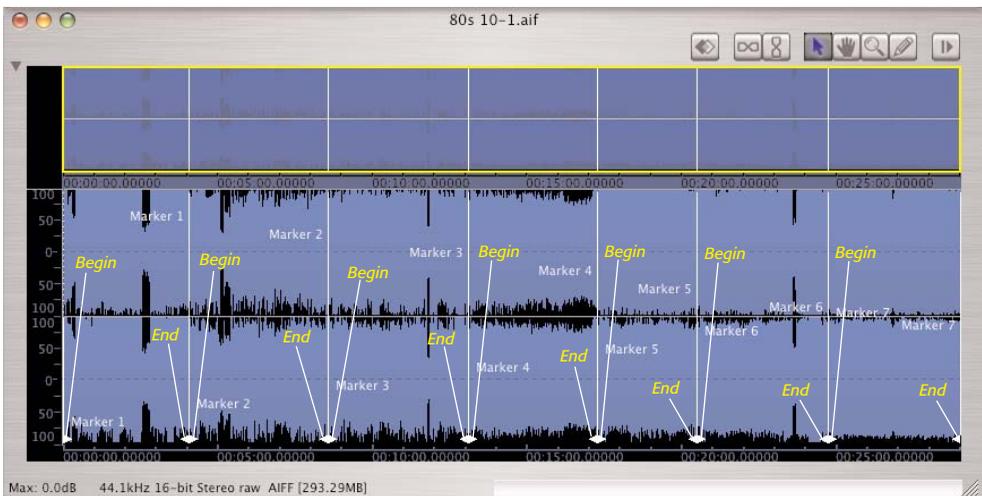
That’s how you create a continuous mix CD in Peak – it’s very easy to do, whether you use Peak LE or Peak Pro.

Additional Peak tutorials are available on the BIAS website, at:

<http://www.bias-inc.com/downloads/documentation/>



Before turning markers into Regions, each marker simply indicates a single position in the waveform...



After turning the markers into Regions – notice that where there was a single marker, there are now two back-to-back Region markers (except for the very first and very last markers – which Peak recognizes as being the beginning of the first track, and end of last track respectively).