

Downloading Music on the Internet

1. Open Windows Media Player (Start/Accessories/Entertainment/Windows Media Player)
2. If you don't have Windows Media Player 10, download it from Microsoft.com and install it before copying music to your computer.
3. Then download music tracks or copy music tracks from your personal CDs to your computer.

www.Wal-Mart.com

To search for an artist or song, simply find the search box in the top right corner and type in what you wish. Wal-Mart.com will display any song/singers you chose if they're available through Wal-Mart.com. This new service already lists over 500,000 music tracks for sale.

The songs downloaded from Wal-mart.com are going to cost you 88 cents each (full "albums" are \$9.44). After downloading the software from Wal-Mart.com (all virus free software), the service will open the Windows Media Player and you can search for your music within it.

www.apple.com / apple i-tunes

The Apple I-Tunes Music Store has more than 1.5 million tracks available for sale at 99 cents each. It's easy to buy music with an iTunes account; you can search for music by title, artist, or genre.

Opened in April 2003 for Mac users only, iTunes had sold only 13 million song tracks after six months. Adding Windows in November of 2003 increased sales to 20 million song tracks per month. Now Apple iTunes is celebrating the 500 million sales milestone and will award an iPod mini and a 50-song iTunes gift card to the customer who purchases the winning song at each 100,000 interval.

AOL Music - music.channel.aol.com

New to the music track business, AOL claims to have over 500,000 songs available for download for .99 each. They also have many music videos. To see the videos you will need to let AOL Music download Real Player to your computer. No problem; it's free and allows you to see many other types of videos on your computer monitor, such as news stories and interviews, etc.

MSN Music - beta.music.msn.com

Microsoft's new music download service has over 1 million music tracks for download. It's easy and free to sign up, just give them your email address and create a password. Music tracks are 99 cents each, and they have quite a variety already. These will all download nicely to your Windows Media Player 10.

www.napster.com

Napster operates an online music store, similar to Apple Computer's much more popular iTunes, where you can buy most songs for 99 cents each and most albums for \$9.99. Songs purchased from Napster are downloaded to your computer's hard drive, where you can listen to them indefinitely. You also can burn the purchased tracks to CD and listen to them in any CD player.

Moving beyond iTunes, Napster has offered a subscription service for \$9.95 a month with unlimited listening to almost all songs in Napster's library. But you can listen only through your computer.

www.real.com

Requires a subscription after a free 14-day trial subscription. Also requires a free download of Real Player music player (a competitor of Windows Media Player). Tracks are 99 cents each and the subscription price is \$14.95, but I couldn't find out for how long.

www.musicmatch.com

Artist Match - Hear music from favorite artists. Access exclusive Genre and Era radio stations. CD-quality sound and no audio or banner ads. Personalized "My Station" and remote access from any PC. Musicmatch Jukebox memberships are \$4.95 for one month, \$11.85 for three months, or \$35 per year. Over 600,000 music tracks available.

www.eMusic.com

Free 2-week trial. Get 50 Free MP3s downloads. eMusic is the only digital music service entirely focused on serving the needs of independent music fans and independent labels. Delivering more than one million downloads each month, eMusic offers a diverse catalog of 600,000 tracks from established and emerging artists in every genre from the world's top independent labels. Founded in 1998, eMusic was the first company to launch a digital music subscription service.

eMusic subscription plans start at \$9.99 per month for 40 downloads. A free trial is available to all new users.

www.RhapsodyMusicService.com

Buy only the songs you want 1,000,000+ songs - only \$.89 each. Rhapsody combines music on demand with the ability to download & burn the songs you want, legally. MyRhapsody centralizes your favorite artists, genres, radio stations, play lists and preferences.

Rhapsody has over 100 pre-programmed radio stations so you can select your mood and rock out or be mellow. You can build your own radio stations by selecting up to ten artists in Rhapsody and they build out a playlist with those artists and similar artists. Rhapsody offers personalized recommendations based on the music you've played. It's a great way to discover new music that you never knew existed.