# Analogue Ripper

**Record Albums**
**Break Them Into Tracks**
**Send the tracks to iTunes**

## I. What the Analogue Ripper (TAR) does

TAR allows you to digitally record music and sound from any analogue source onto your Mac. You can record from cassettes, vinyl, microphone, 8 Track, reel to reel, radio, even VHS, in fact anything that you have playback equipment for. TAR records in either Apple Lossless format or one of two AAC qualities.

TAR has powerful and easy to use editing features that let you break albums or cassettes up into discreet tracks. This is very important if you don't always want to listen to tracks 1,2,and 3 before track 4.

TAR records sound as QuickTime movie soundtracks. Tracks can be sent to iTunes for encoding with any of iTunes compression formats.

TAR allows editing of track name, artist, album, etc., so that this data is included when the track is sent to iTunes. All entered data is saved with the sound.

## II. What TAR does not do

TAR does not burn files onto CD. (iTunes does this.)

TAR does not do any digital signal processing.

## III. **What you need**

### A. *Computer Equipment*

Macintosh running OSX 10.6 Snow Leopard or higher

Note that TAR 2.05 is still available and will record and edit on PPC and intel based Macs running OSX 10.3, 10.4 or 10.5.

### B. *Audio Equipment*

You can record onto your computer from vinyl, tape, radio or other analogue source.

You can record direct from some sources (like portable radios or personal music players) by plugging the headphone output into your computer's 'sound in' port. You will need a connector cable with a 3.5 mm stereo jack at each end.

If you need to amplify the source, for example a turntable, you will need an amplifier, the source (turntable, cassette deck etc.), and some speakers.

Make sure that your Mac and all audio equipment is turned off while you are making connections.

Most Macs have a 3.5 mm stereo mini plug 'sound in' port. You will need an audio cable with the stereo mini plug on one end, and two RCA phono plugs on the other for connection to your amplifier.

Summary for use of an external amplifier.

Connect the sound in port of your Mac to a tape output on the amplifier.
Connect the sound out port on your Mac to a tape input on the amplifier.

In this way, you can both record sound from the amplifier's source, and play back the sounds you have recorded.

# IV. **Recording With The Analogue Ripper**

TAR has a comprehensive live help system which can be turned on or off with the '**Show Help**' option under the '**Help**' menu. When it is turned on, captions will appear relating to the area under the mouse cursor.

### A. *How To record sounds to file*
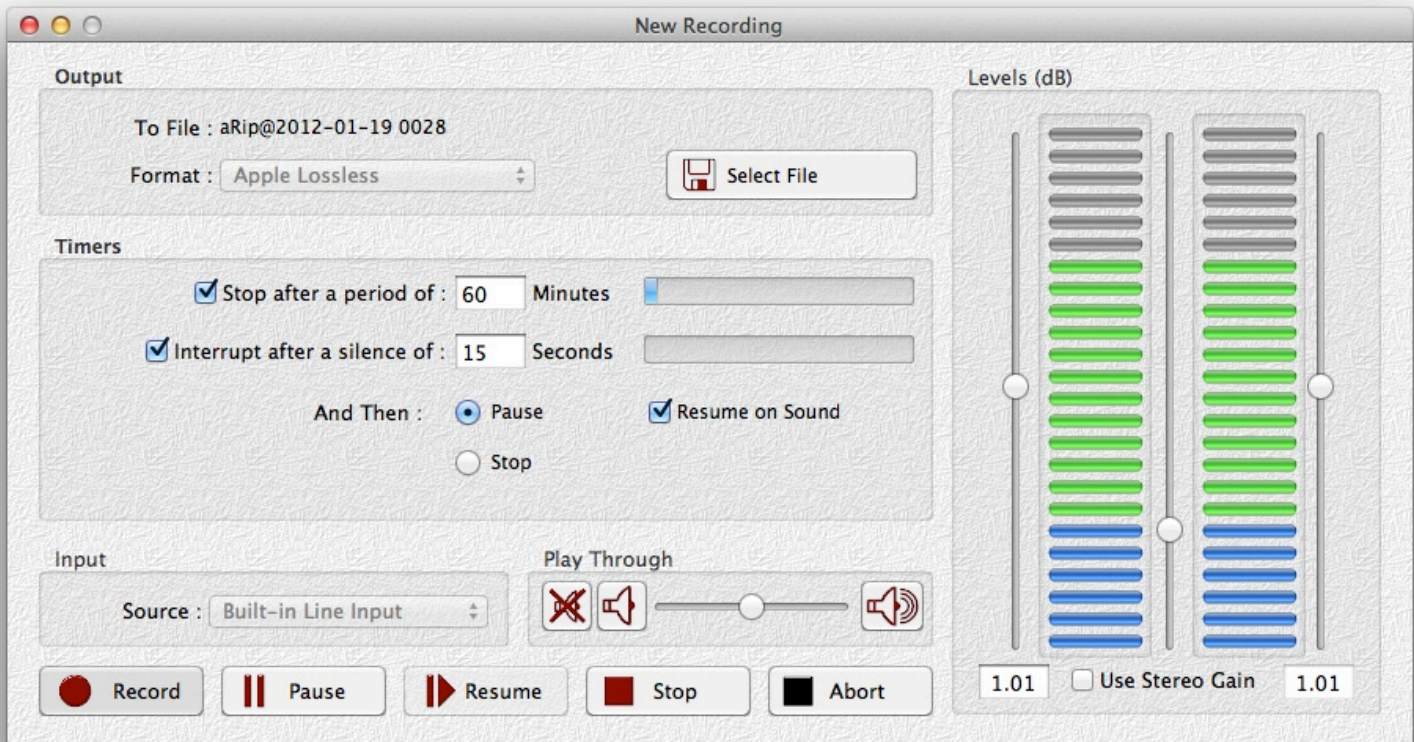


If the "**New Recording**" window is not open, select "**New Recording**" from under the file menu. The recording Window is shown below :

TAR will supply you with a default file name to record to. To change this, click on the "**Select File**" button.

As a default location for recordings, TAR creates an '*Analogue Ripper*' folder in your Music Folder.

Turn on your recording source, and set the Input popup to suit. This will generally be as "**Built In Input**" for Input.

Adjust the silence threshold ( The slider between the two level meters) so that between tracks or when the sound has finished the level stays in the blue area. Note that because the level meters are now on a decibel scale, this may be higher than on previous versions of TAR.

Adjust the gain controls so that loud music fills the main(yellow/green) area of the level meters without going into the red.

Set the '**Stop after a period of**' time period to a value greater than the duration of whatever you are recording from. This is really just a fall back in case the source is very noisy.

Set the "**Interrupt after a silence of** " period, 10 to 15 seconds is good.

Move your source back to the beginning, and click on the "**Record**" button.

### B. *Pausing and resuming recording*

You can pause recording at any time by clicking on the "**Pause**" button. When recording is paused, the timers are stopped and the "**Stop After Silence**" feature is disabled.

You can resume recording by clicking on the "**Resume**" button.

If the recording has been paused by the silence timer, and you have checked the '**Resume on Sound Input**' checkbox adjacent to the '**Pause**' radio button, the recording will resume as soon as sound above the silence threshold is detected. This is useful if you wish to record both sides of an LP or cassette.

### C. *Stopping recording*

Recording will stop when :

- The stop button is pressed.
- The period timer has elapsed.
- The silence timer has elapsed and the selected action is stop.
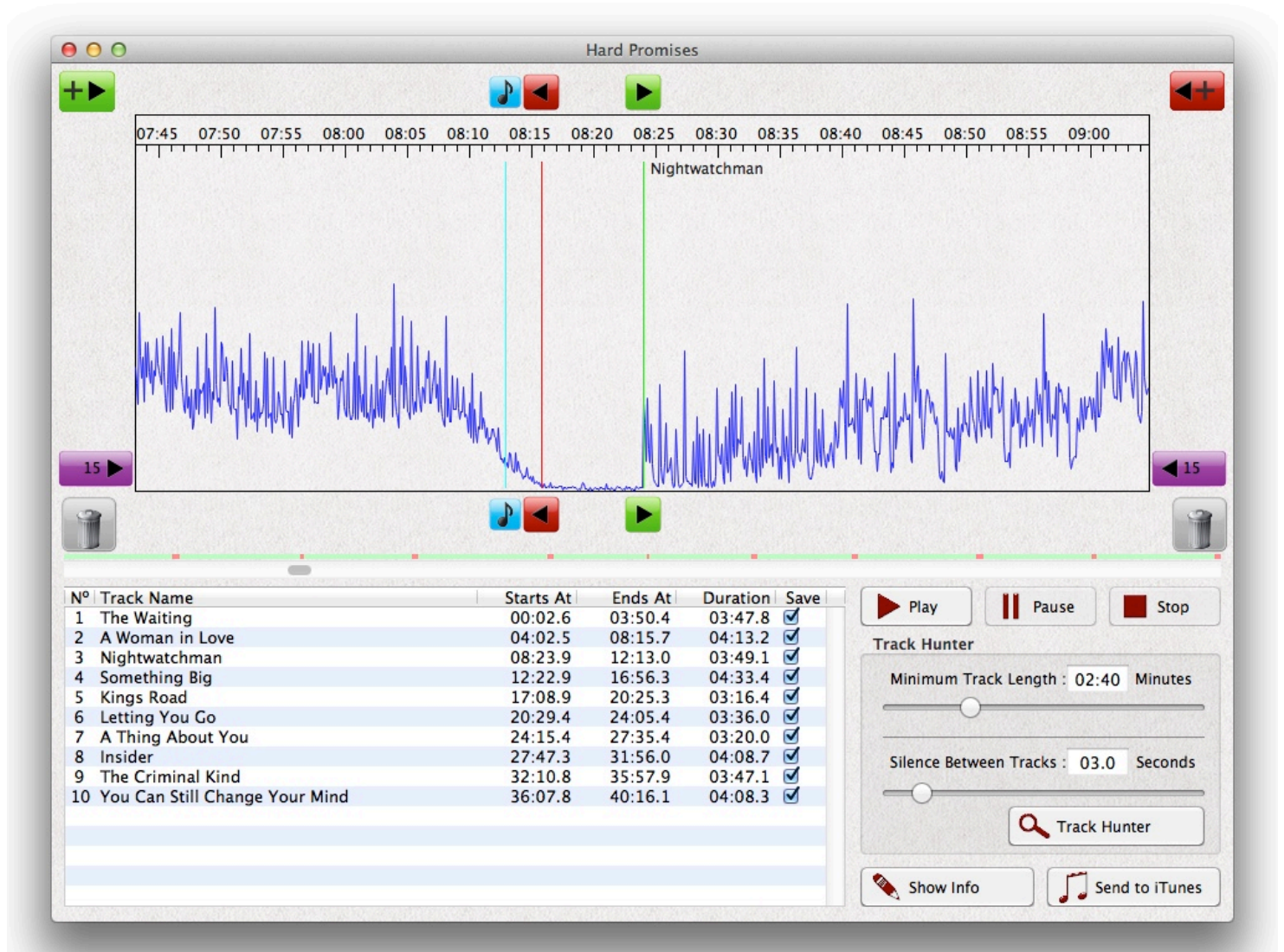
If you have checked '**Open Recording In Editor Window**' in the preferences window,the recording will be opened in the editor window.

### D. *Aborting recording*

This will stop the recording and delete the current recording file.

## v. **Editing Sound Files**

TAR can open many different types of sound file. Some files produced by earlier versions of TAR may appear dimmed in the file open window. If the file is a quicktime movie, you may be able to fix this by adding the suffix ".mov" if it is not present.



| Nº | Track Name | Starts At | Ends At | Duration | Save |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Waiting | 00:02.6 | 03:50.4 | 03:47.8 | ☑ |
| 2 | A Woman in Love | 04:02.5 | 08:15.7 | 04:13.2 | ☑ |
| 3 | Nightwatchman | 08:23.9 | 12:13.0 | 03:49.1 | ☑ |
| 4 | Something Big | 12:22.9 | 16:56.3 | 04:33.4 | ☑ |
| 5 | Kings Road | 17:08.9 | 20:25.3 | 03:16.4 | ☑ |
| 6 | Letting You Go | 20:29.4 | 24:05.4 | 03:36.0 | ☑ |
| 7 | A Thing About You | 24:15.4 | 27:35.4 | 03:20.0 | ☑ |
| 8 | Insider | 27:47.3 | 31:56.0 | 04:08.7 | ☑ |
| 9 | The Criminal Kind | 32:10.8 | 35:57.9 | 03:47.1 | ☑ |
| 10 | You Can Still Change Your Mind | 36:07.8 | 40:16.1 | 04:08.3 | ☑ |

TAR presents sounds as a volume trace averaged over 0.1 second periods. The trace is relative and no scale can be assumed. Silences are represented by low levels, crescendos are indicated by high levels. The Trace can display both channels combined (blue), or left (red) and right (green) channels. If you attempt to show no elements of the trace, the combined trace will be shown. You can toggle display of channels with the following keyboard shortcuts :

Command-B        Displays Both channels combined.

Command-L        Displays the Left channel trace.

| | |
|---|---|
| Command-R | Displays the <u>R</u>ight channel trace. |
| Command-F | Toggle the trace to <u>F</u>ollow music playing |

The green and red strip over the trace scroll gives an overview of the recording. Green sections are tracks and red sections are the gaps between them. If you click on the scroll bar while holding down the command button, the trace will scroll to that point.

Many aspects of the appearance and behaviour of the editor window are controlled via the Preferences window. See Preferences below.

### A. *Adding, moving and deleting markers*

You can determine the start and end of tracks by placing markers manually or by using the track hunter. Add start markers by clicking on the green button at top left. Add stop markers by clicking on the red button at top right. Delete markers by dragging them to one of the trash cans. You cannot delete the play marker.

You can place the play marker by clicking anywhere in the trace.

You can play, pause and stop the sound playing with the **Play**, **Pause** and **Stop**  buttons.

### B. *How to break an open sound file up into tracks*

The file must be open and displayed in the editor. Note that TAR will open most sound files, including some that have video tracks.

Check the LP, Cassette or other source for the number of tracks, but don't worry if you don't know this.

Set the **silence between tracks** to 2.0 seconds. Set the minimum track length to two minutes. (These are defaults and will already be set.)

Push the **Track Hunter** button, to turn on the automatic track seeking feature.

When the track hunter is on, the magenta limit line will appear, the track hunter values will be bright yellow in the handles, and the track hunter button will appear depressed.

Click on one of the track hunter handles and move the track hunter up, the track beginnings and ends will start to appear, represented by green and red lines respectively. When the number of tracks is what you were expecting, stop.  You can combine adjusting the "**Silence Between Tracks**", the "**Minimum Track Length**", and the "**Silence Threshold**" to fine tune this process as you become more experienced.

You can move the light blue start play marker to the beginnings/ends of tracks and click on play to check that the track markers are in the right place.

You can move track markers by clicking on them and dragging them. If you drag them out of the display box, the sound will scroll to follow them.

You should now have a list of tracks in the scrolling list at bottom left. These are initially given default names based on the name of the sound file. You can edit the names in line in the list by clicking on them and then typing in the new names. Names are not lost when you use the track hunter.

If you don't want to save all tracks, you can toggle whether tracks are saved by checking and un-checking the checkbox in the right hand column of the track list.

### c. *Viewing and editing information about a recording*

The **info** button displays the info window, which shows information about the movie's recording format and allows entry of data about the recording. If you send the tracks to iTunes, the data will be sent with them.

The info window has copy and paste buttons, which give access to a special clipboard so that recording information can be copied between editor windows. This is useful if you have recorded both sides of an album separately.

Track names can be added directly in the list of the edit window, or added/edited here. You can also paste in text from another source.



Hard Promises

**Recording Info**

Album : Hard Promises
Artist : Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
Composer : Composer
Track Count : 10          Year : 1978
Genre : Joyful strumming
Comments : Any comments that you may wish to attach to the tracks in iTunes.

Track Names : The Waiting
A Woman in Love
Nightwatchman
Something Big
Kings Road
Letting You Go
A Thing About You

**Format and Size**

Format : 16-bit Integer (Big Endian), Stereo, 44.100 kHz
Duration : 0:40:41.2          Data Rate : 1,411 kbps
Data Size : 410 MB          File Size : 420 MB

[ Copy ]   [ Paste ]   [ Cancel ]   [ OK ]

If the text in the comments section contains a carriage return - your tracks will not export to iTunes. This is a bug. Thanks to Frank F for finding it.
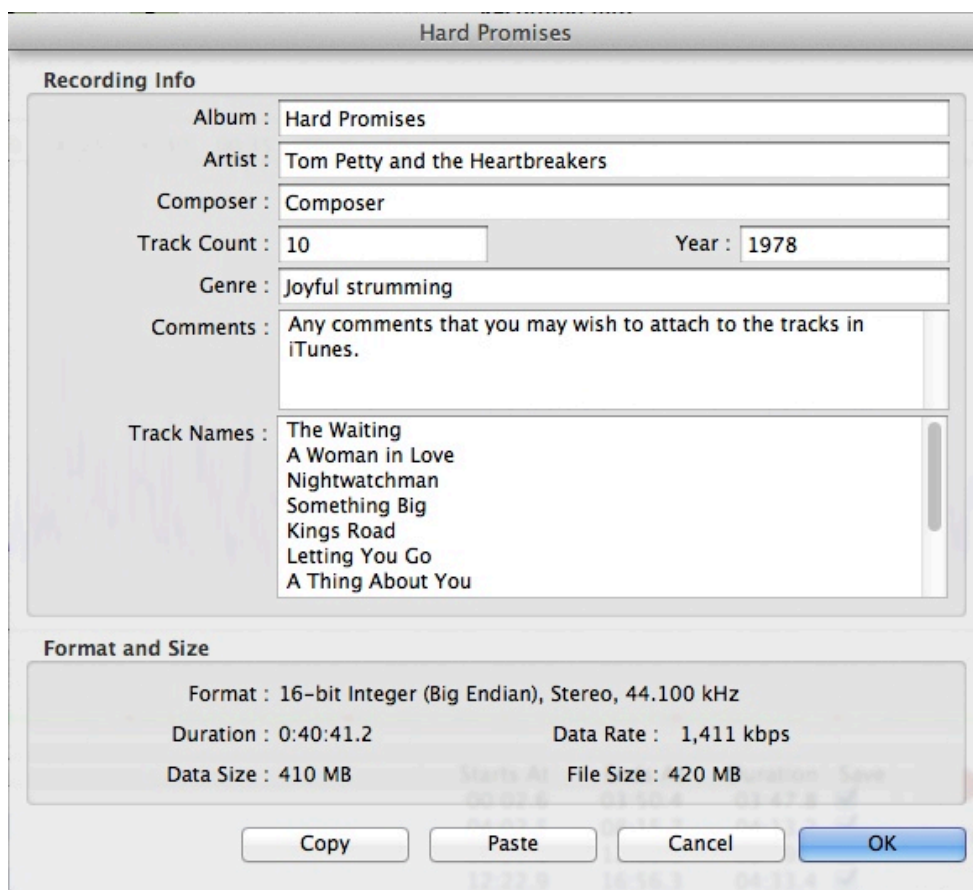
### D. *Sending Tracks to iTunes*

You can send your tracks to iTunes, they will be added to your library of songs and the track name, album, artist, composer, etc. will be set as described under the Info window above.

You can also request iTunes to encode your tracks using the encoder from the pop-up menu. The bitrate and other options are as set in iTunes.

The encoder is set back to the one set in iTunes when encoding is complete.

You can set the Track Number offset to add a fixed amount to the track number of each track. For example if you have recorded side two of an LP separately from side one you may want to offset the track numbers of side two by the number of tracks on side one.
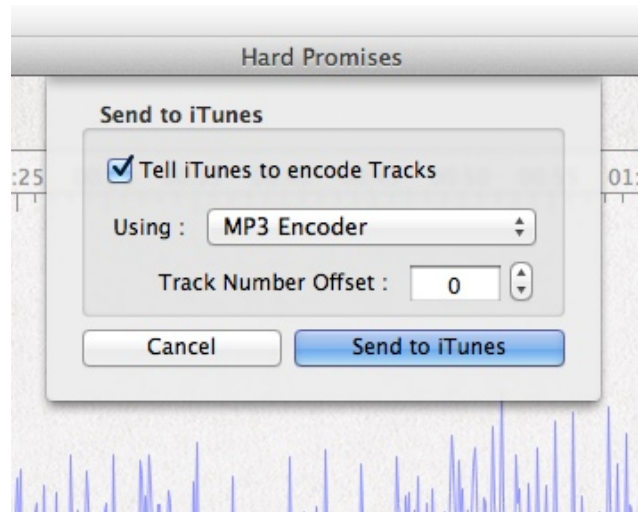
# VI. **Preferences**

## A. *Background Options*

This allows you to control the appearance of the recorder and editor windows. You can test what a pattern will look like by clicking on "View Background".
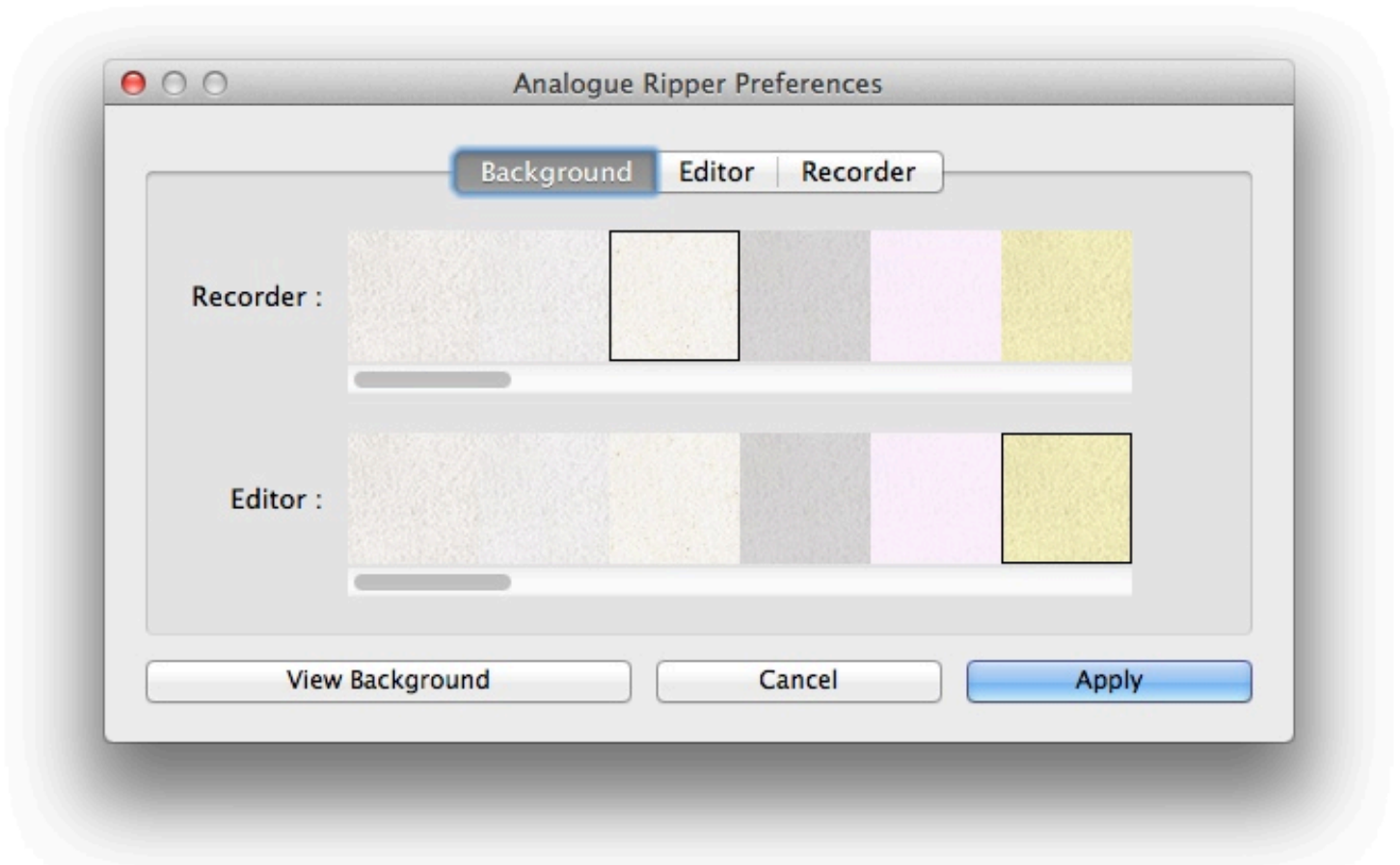
### B. *Play Marker options*

If you check the "**Move To Selected Track**" option, a click on a track in the track list will move the play marker to the beginning of the selected track. There are further options for the exact position, either right at the beginning, in between the beginning of the current track and the previous one, or at the end of the previous track.

### c.  *Recorder options*

Check these boxes to determine TAR's behaviour after completion of a recording.
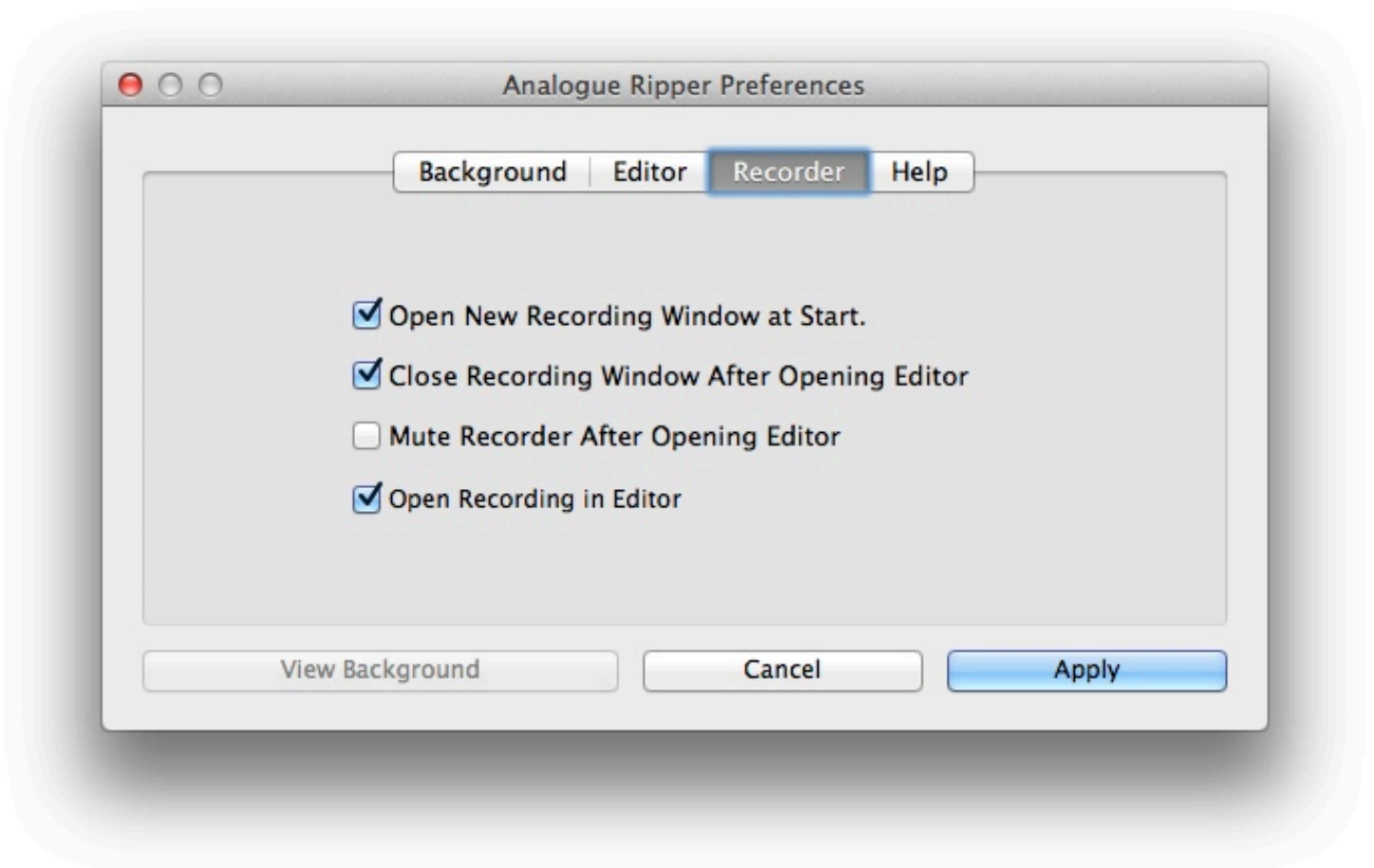


## VII. Bug Reports and Comments

If you have problems with TAR, or would like other features in a future version, please e-mail us and let us know . mailto ://Support@Hotwork.org

## VIII.Legal Stuff

*TAR is for use by people wanting to convert their own collections of analogue recordings to digital. It is not designed for commercial use.*

*We have taken great care in writing TAR, but can accept no liability for any losses arising from it's use, whether registered or unregistered.*

*TAR is supplied as is. Hotwork hereby disclaims all warranties relating to this software, whether express or implied, including without limitation any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Hotwork will not be liable for any special, incidental, consequential, indirect or similar damages due to loss of data or any other reason, or for any claim by any other party, even if Hotwork , or an agent of Hotwork has been advised of the possibility of such damages. In no event shall Hotwork's liability for any damages ever exceed the price paid for the license to use the software, regardless of the form of the claim. The person using the software bears all risk as to the quality and performance of the software.*

*The user of this program accepts responsibility for obeying all applicable copyright law.*

I hope you have a lot of fun with it.

Manual Version 3.01