

After purchasing and installing a lot of apps on my iPhone and iPad, I discovered that there are some pretty cool sounds in those apps - many of which would make great text tones and other alerts for my iPhone. After a bit of exploring, I have discovered that these sounds can be extracted from the apps without too much effort. Since I'm a Mac user, the file locations and conversion apps mentioned in this "how to" are OS X specific. If you're a Windows user, the location of the iTunes media should be similar, but you're on your own to find a suitable audio file conversion utility. (You can also use an online conversion service like Zamzar.com)

The process seems to be a bit convoluted, but with a bit of practice, you can reap some really neat rewards. So, buckle up and let's get started.

1. Locate the app that contains the tones you want to extract.
2. Copy the app to your desktop. (Location of the app on your computer is Music/iTunes/iTunes Media/Mobile Applications/<app name>.ipa). This is necessary to ensure you don't destroy/mess up the actual iOS app.
3. Rename the file extension of the app to .zip file (myapp.ipa -> myapp.zip)
4. Double click on the .zip file to create a folder (myapp) on your desktop
5. Open the folder and find the PAYLOAD folder
6. Open the folder and find the APP package (myapp.app)
7. Right click and choose SHOW PACKAGE CONTENTS
8. From here, it's a matter of finding the audio files. Typically they are in a folder named AUDIO. They can be in any number of audio formats, including .wav, .mp3, .caf or even something else.
9. Copy the sound files to your desktop, or to another location where you will be able to find them.
10. Convert them using a media converter (I have several installed Amersoft Converter, MTS Converter and SmartConverter. You want to create .m4a files.
11. Rename the .m4a (audio) files to .m4r (ringtone) files.
12. Copy the tones into iTunes (just double click them to play/add them to iTunes).
13. Sync your device.