

Audio/Visual How To

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Starting with TAMS Analyzer 2.41, there is support for working with Quicktime friendly audio and visual files including mp3's, aiff's and other media formats. Basically, TA just acts as a transcription machine. It allows you to attach a single media file to a transcript. Play the media file, insert time codes, control the speed of playback, insert time codes into your transcript and jump to specific time codes in your media file. Time codes are all represented as seconds, which allows for rapid conversion between TA's text and Quicktime's internal time representations.

The main controls for the media files are placed above the coding list. The media player is separated by a splitview divider from the code list, so that if you are not working with media, you can basically make the media player go away:

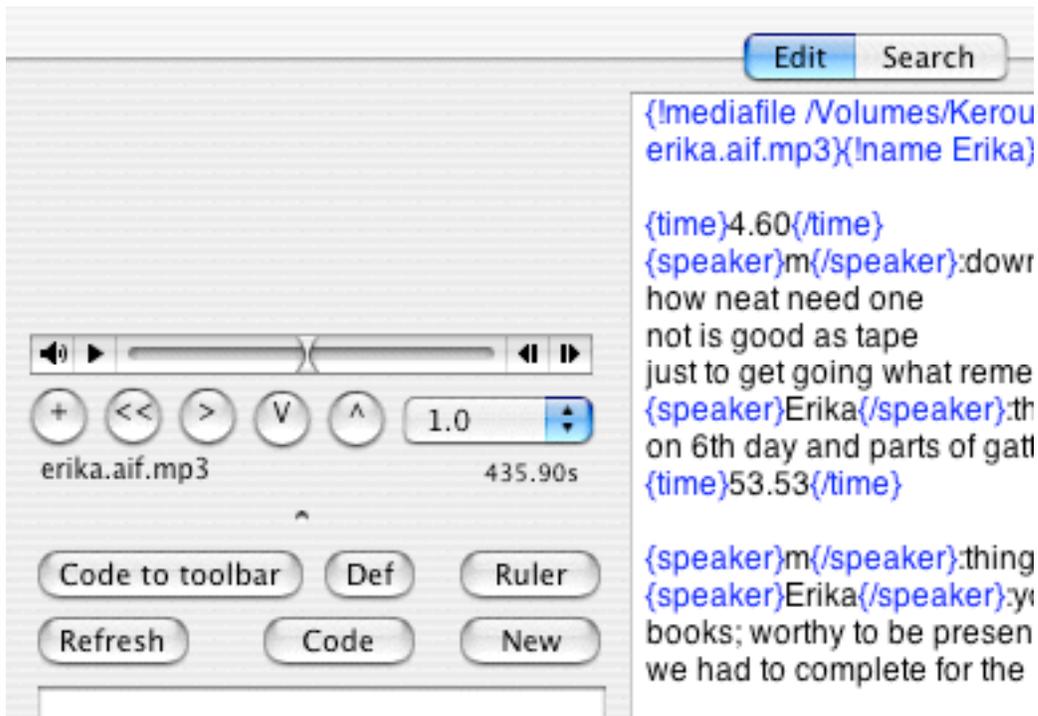


Figure 1. TA media player

To attach a media file to your trascript use the + button in the media player. This loads a media file and also inserts the !mediafile tag to the start of the trascript which tells TA where to find the media file next time you open this trascript in TA. If TA can't find the media file at the given location it will look in the same folder as the transcript/document file. Finally, if not there, you will be prompted to delete the media file tag and relocate (again with the + button) the media file.

To play the media file use the > button or use the key equivalent apple-K. This is a toggle which becomes the stop button when media are playing.

The media player is basically a transcription machine. **To backspace so you can rehear a portion of your media file use the << key or the key equivalent apple-shift-B.** You can slow down the play back speed by using the small menu to pick a different rate (pick 1.0 to return to normal speed). This can be fine tuned with apple-] and apple-[.

If you want to insert a time code into your document use the v button. This can either insert the code raw or the time already surrounded by tags depending on user preferences:

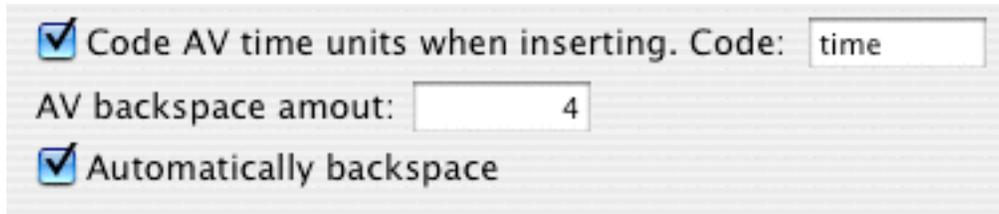


Figure 2. TA User preference options involving audio visual aspects of TA

The first item determines if and how it is coded. You can also control the amount of back and forward space (again in seconds). And you also link the backspace to the play button so that every time you press play it automatically backspaces.

You can also return to any location in your media file by selecting a time in seconds and using the jump button (the ^ button) or the key equivalent apple-shift-J.

The Coding->Audio/visual menu provides additional options as well as an easy reference for the key equivalents of the buttons:

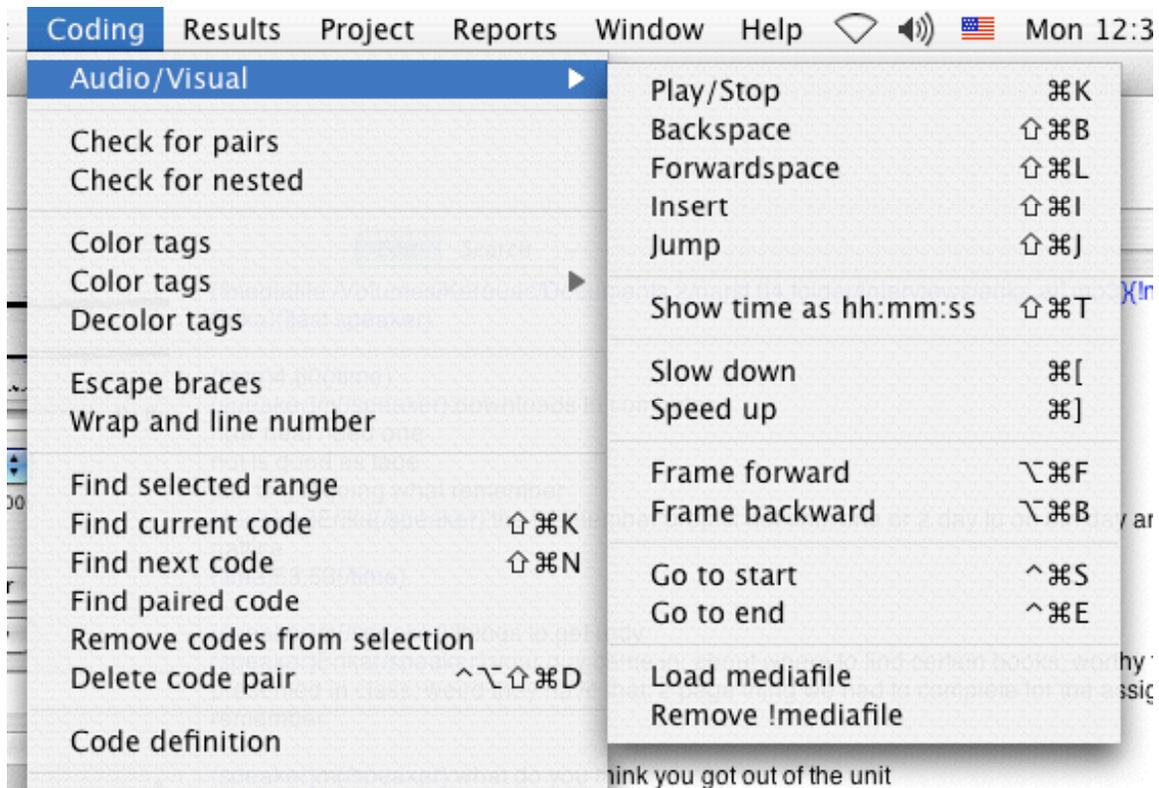


Figure 3. The Audio/Visual Menu

As is clear, this menu also offers additional controls including jumping forward, and fine controls over the speed of play back (1% shifts are possible using the apple-] and apple-[keys). Users can also jump to the start or end of the file, or move through their media one frame at a time.

The show time as hh:mm:ss menu option (also accessible through apple-shift-T for time shows a dialogue which translates the selected text from seconds to hh:mm:ss format. If no text is selected, or the selection is of length 0, then the current position of the media player is translated into hh:mm:ss format and displayed in a dialogue.

Finally one can purge one's transcript of !media metatags. This you might have to do if you move your media file relative to your transcript.

Button summary:

+	Load file	No key equivalent
<<	Backspace	Apple-shift-B
>	Play	Apple-K
x	Stop/Pause	Apple-K
v	Insert time code	Apple-shift-I
^	Jump to selected time	Apple-shift-J