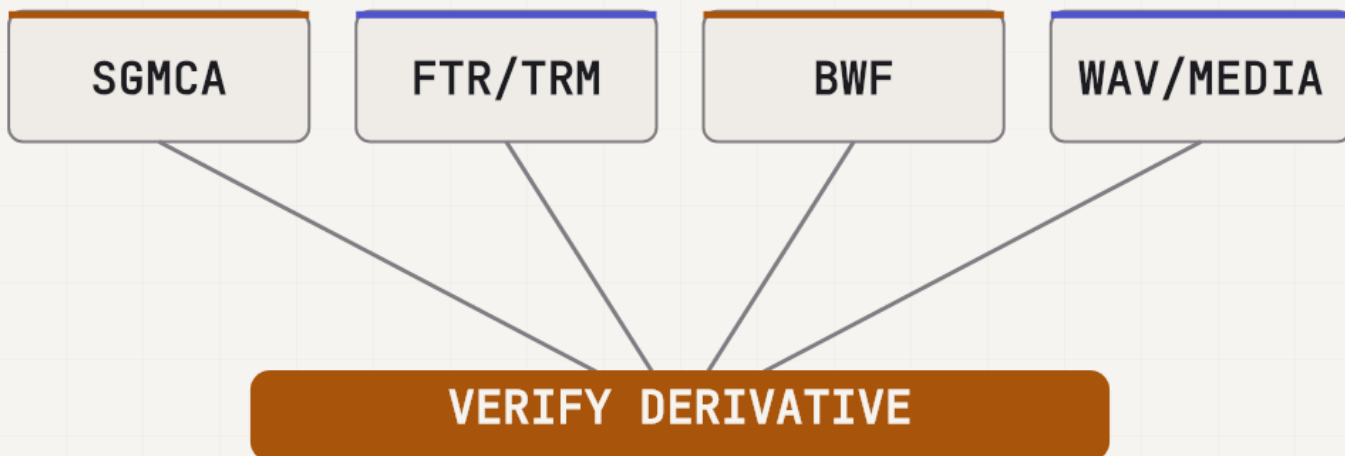


Court-Audio File Format Decoder

Identify SGMCA, FTR/TRM, BWF, and standard audio packages, preserve the source, convert a working copy locally, and verify the result.

04 / 01 FORMATS

ONE WORKING DERIVATIVE



PRESERVE • IDENTIFY • VERIFY

The goal is a verified derivative, not a rewritten source

When court audio will not open, preserve the complete delivery before trying to make it convenient. Small sidecars, numbered segments, metadata, and folder relationships may be part of the session. Routine playback and conversion should happen in a separate working folder.

SGMCA

SGMCA

USUALLY CONTAINS

Vendor-wrapped audio and session data

AVOID

Trimming or rewriting the only copy

SAFE NEXT STEP

Preserve the package; identify and convert a working copy locally

FTR / TRM

FTR / TRM

USUALLY CONTAINS

Often a numbered sequence of multi-channel recording segments

AVOID

Opening one segment and assuming the session is complete

SAFE NEXT STEP

Keep the full run together; use FTR Player or an approved export when conversion cannot be verified

BWF

BWF

USUALLY CONTAINS

RIFF/WAVE audio with broadcast metadata and possible extra chunks

AVOID

Treating playback as proof that every field or channel survived

SAFE NEXT STEP

Inspect metadata and channels; preserve the original BWF

WAV / *standard media*

WAV / *standard media*

USUALLY CONTAINS

Usually broadly playable audio

AVOID

Assuming it is the authoritative or complete source package

SAFE NEXT STEP

Verify provenance, duration, channels, and accompanying material

Protect the source before conversion

Can an ordinary player open the complete delivery?

YES

Check the channels and duration. Work from a copy, retain sidecars, and verify the export.

NO

Stop changing the source. Preserve the package, identify the format, convert locally, then verify every segment and channel.

WORKING-COPY STANDARD

Keep distinct: received source then straight derivative then cleaned listening copy.

Minimum intake record

Record the source, receipt date, original filenames, file sizes, operator, tool and version, conversion settings, channel mapping, output location, warnings, and verification result. Use the organization's formal intake, evidence, or records procedure whenever one applies.

Verify more than the progress bar

- Compare expected and exported duration.
- Listen near the beginning, middle, and end.
- Confirm every numbered FTR/TRM segment appears in order.
- Inspect individual channels before mixing them together.
- Keep a straight conversion separate from any denoised, normalized, trimmed, or otherwise cleaned listening copy.

Tools, boundaries, and references

Format and tool limits. EBU Tech 3285 defines BWF's RIFF/WAVE structure and broadcast metadata; playback does not establish that an export retained every chunk. FTR's legacy player notes explain segmented TRM deliveries. Use the current vendor player or an approved export when conversion cannot be verified. DepoAudio v1.0.2's release status marks FTR/TRM conversion experimental; detection alone does not prove a complete conversion.

For additional context, the related format field note covers output choices and troubleshooting. Follow the organization's preservation and release procedure.

REFERENCES

EBU TECH 3285 <https://tech.ebu.ch/publications/tech3285>

FTR'S LEGACY PLAYER NOTES <https://store.fortherecord.com/products/ftr-player-5-6-2>

CURRENT VENDOR PLAYER <https://fortherecord.com/support-and-updates/>

DEPOAUDIO V1.0.2'S RELEASE STATUS <https://www.depoaudio.com/release-status/>

RELATED FORMAT FIELD NOTE </blog/open-court-recording-formats/>