

WordPress Block Editor – Audio Block

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WordPress Block Editor: Audio Block

WordPress Training

Tutorial Contents



This tutorial is part of our series on [How To Use The WordPress Block Editor \(Gutenberg\)](#).

- To learn more about using the WordPress block editor interface, go here: [The WordPress Block Editor – Content Area](#)
- To learn more about using blocks, see this tutorial: [How To Use WordPress Content Editor Blocks](#)
- For additional information, see this tutorial on [How To Add Audio Files In WordPress](#).

Audio Block – Description

The *Audio block* lets you embed .mp3 and other audio files (e.g. music, podcasts, sound files) into a post or page on your WordPress site and play files using a simple native HTML 5 audio player.

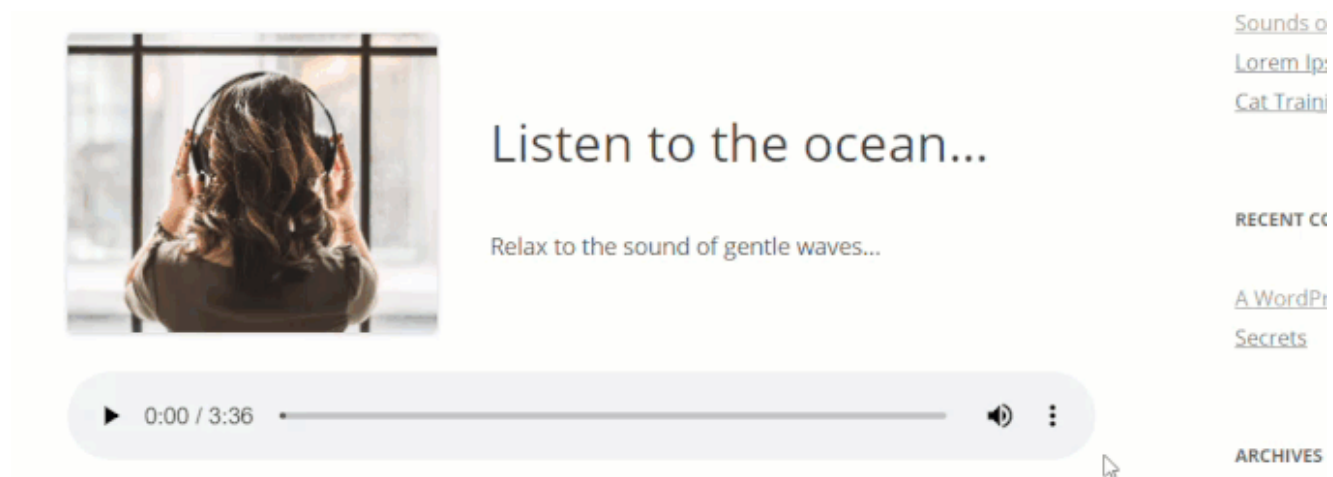
Audio Player

Add audio files to WordPress using the Audio Block.

By default, the Audio block gives you the following audio player controls:

- Play
- Pause
- Length
- Volume slider
- Download the audio file

Note: The design of the audio player will depend on the user's browser.



Audio file controls.

How To Use The Audio Block

In this section, we'll cover:

- How to add an Audio block to your content.
- How to edit and configure your Audio block and block settings.
- How to remove the Audio block from your content.

For more details on using blocks (e.g. how to move blocks around your content), see this tutorial: [How To Use Blocks](#).

Adding An Audio Block

To add an *Audio block* to your content:

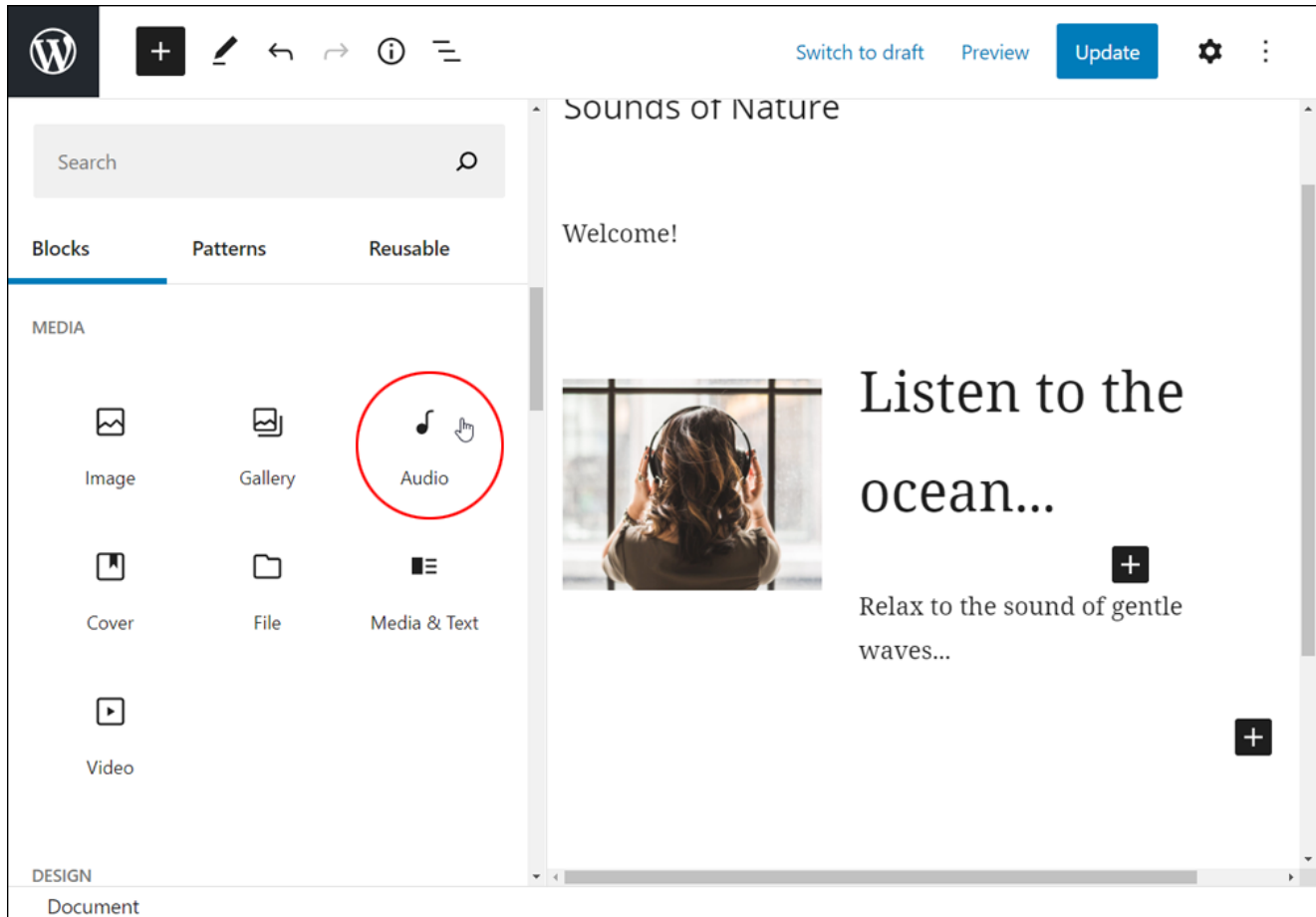
Either:

- Click on the 'Add Block' tool in the **Editing Toolbar** section and select an Audio block (in *Most Used* or *Media* section), or
 - Add the Audio block in the **Content Area**.
- Drag and drop, upload, or select an audio file from your **Media Library**.
 - Use the tools in the *Audio Block Editor* or *Block Settings* section to edit and format your audio.

Let's go through the above steps.

First, create a new post or page or open an existing post or page and either:

Click on the 'Add Block' tool and select an 'Audio' block...



Select an Audio block from the Add Block tool.

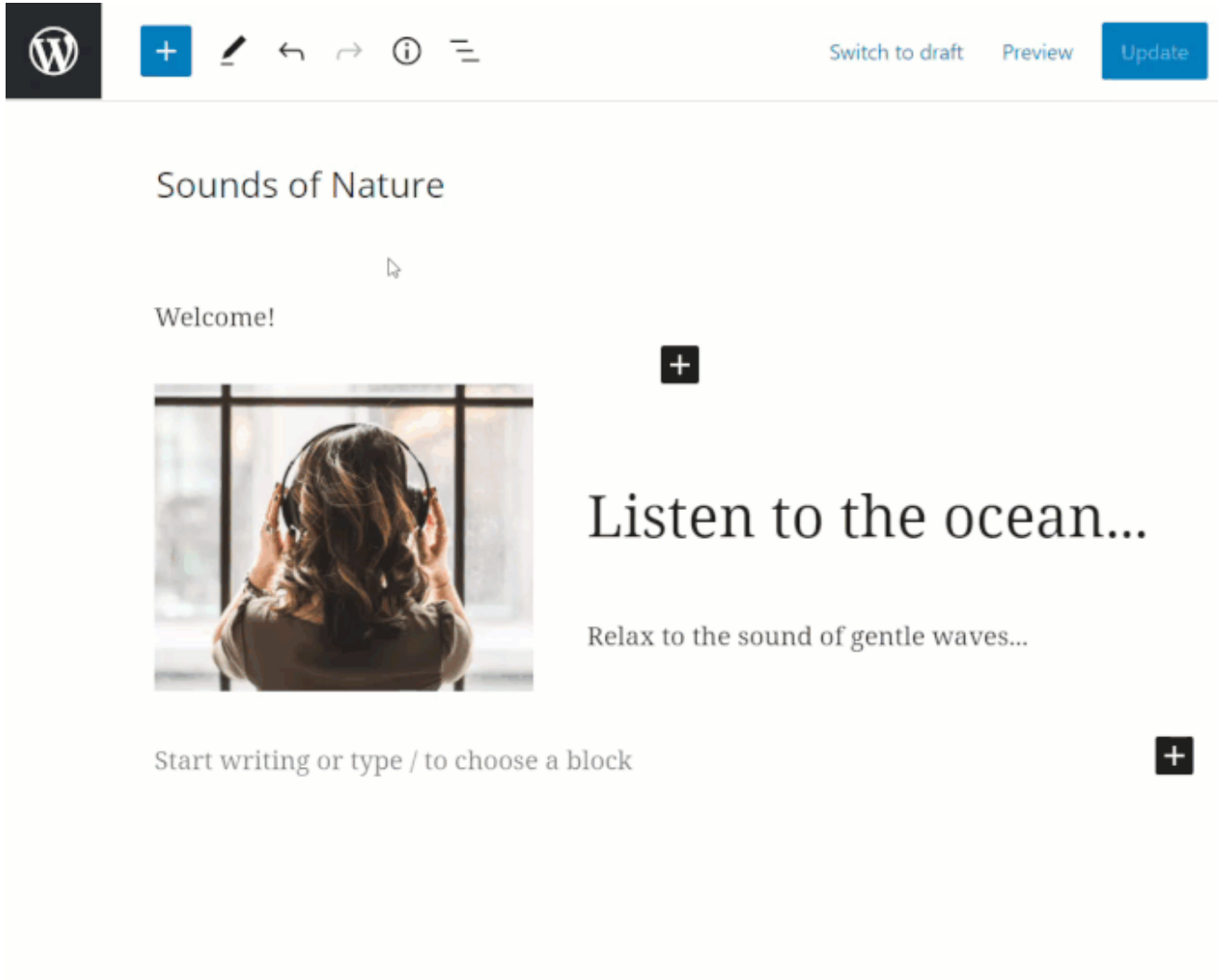
(*'Add Block' Tool – Add Audio Block*)

Or, select an Audio block using the **Insert tool** in the Content Area.

The screenshot shows a content editor interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with icons for adding, editing, undo, redo, and help, along with buttons for "Switch to draft", "Preview", and "Update". Below the toolbar is a secondary toolbar with icons for list, indent, outdent, link, unlink, and a "Replace" button. The main content area features a large image of a woman with headphones, followed by the heading "Listen to the ocean..." and the subtext "Relax to the sound of gentle waves...". A plus sign icon is visible in the bottom right of the content area. A content area panel is open, showing a search bar "Search for a block" and a grid of block options: Paragraph, Audio (highlighted with a red circle), Image, Media & Text, Heading, and Gallery. A "Browse all" button is at the bottom of the panel. The bottom left corner of the editor shows "ent - Media & Text".

Add an Audio block from the Content Area.

Either of these methods will insert an audio block into your content.



Adding an Audio block.

You can add an audio file to your content after inserting an Audio block in several ways:

- Using drag and drop (upload).
- Using the web browser uploader (upload).
- From your **media library**.
- From an external URL.

Add An Audio Using Drag & Drop

Note: You don't need to add an audio block to your post or page first in order to add an audio file when using the drag and drop method.

To add an audio file using drag and drop:

- Make sure your media files folder is open (you may need to resize your browser to view both your post and your media folder).
- Select an audio file from your media folder and drag it into your content area where you would like to insert the file.

- This will automatically embed the audio file into your content.

Sounds of Nature

Welcome!



Listen to the ocean...

Relax to the sound of gentle waves...

Start writing or type / to choose a block



Add an audio file using drag and drop.

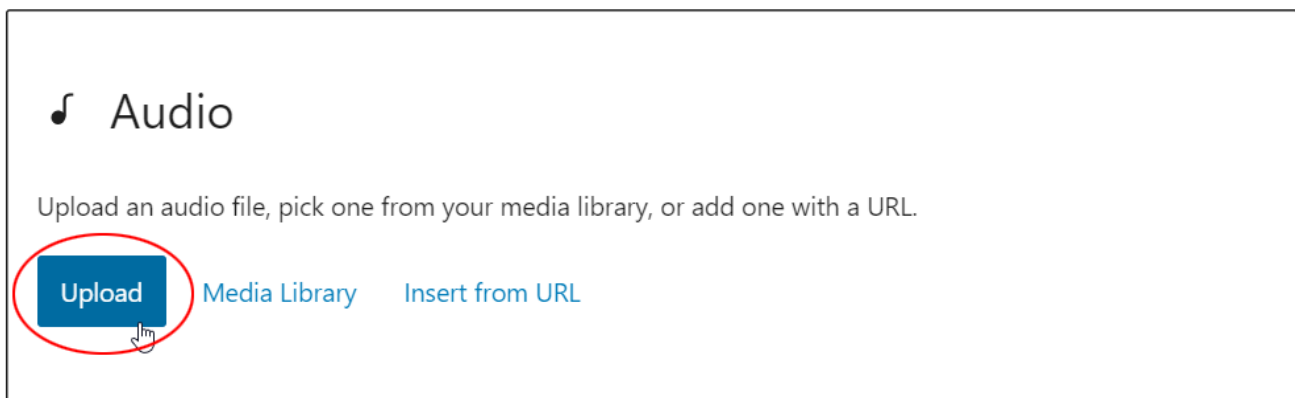
Add An Audio Using Your Web Browser Uploader

To add an audio file using your web browser uploader:

- Make sure you know where your media files folder is located.
- Select the Audio block and click the Upload button to open your web browser's media uploader window.
- Select an audio file from your media folder and click the 'Open' button to import the audio file into your site.
- This will automatically upload your audio to the media library and add it to your post/page.

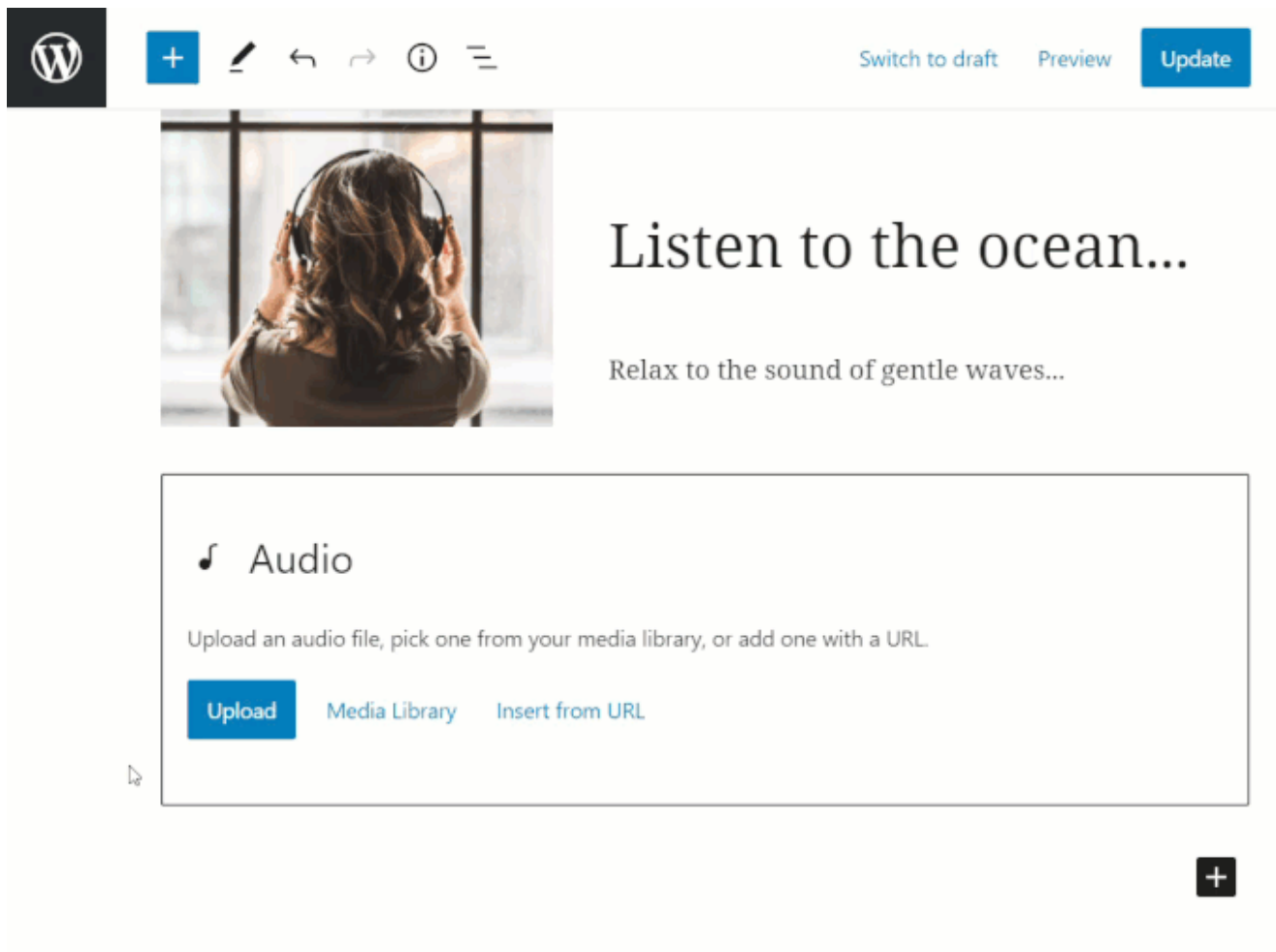
Let's go through the above steps:

First, click the 'Upload' button in the Audio block.



Click the Upload button.

This will bring up an upload browser. Locate your media files folder, select the audio file you want to insert into your content, and click 'Open' to import the audio file into your post or page.



Upload an audio file using the Audio block.

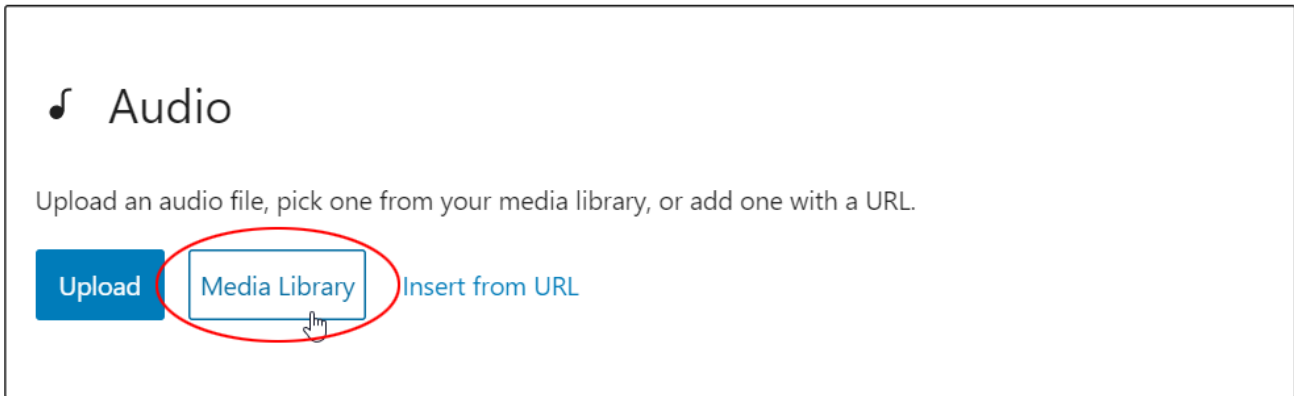
Add An Audio From Your Media Library

To add an audio file from your media library:

- Make sure that your audio file has been uploaded to your media library (if you need help with this step, see this tutorial: [How To Use The WordPress Media Library](#)).
- Select the Audio block and click the 'Media Library' button.
- In your Media Library, click on an audio file to select it.
- Click the 'Select' button.
- This will insert the audio file into your post or page.
- Update or publish your post or page to save your changes and update your content.

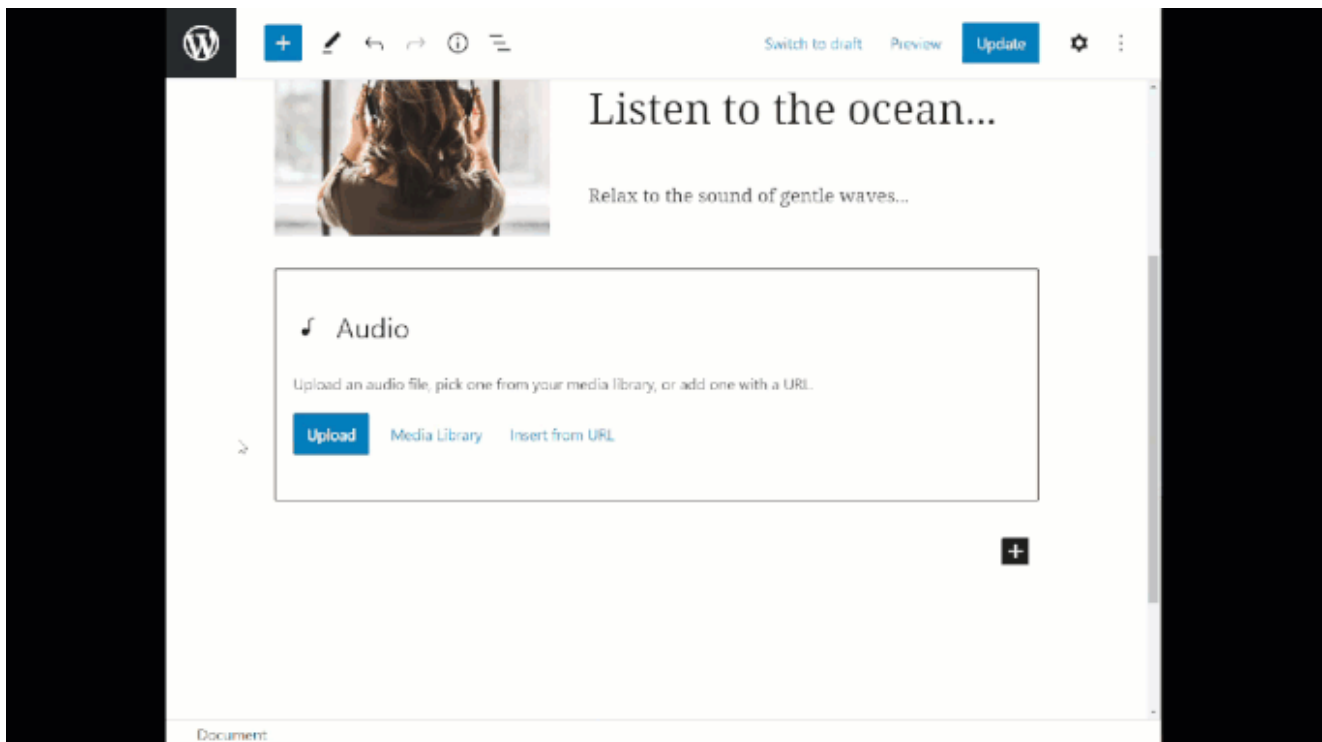
Let's go through the above steps:

Hover over the Audio block and click on the 'Media Library' button.



Click on the Media Library button.

Select an audio file from your media library (or upload one from your media files folder) and click on the 'Select' button.



Upload an audio file to your content from the Media Library.

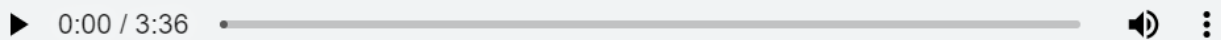
This will add the audio file to your post or page.

Welcome!



Listen to the ocean...

Relax to the sound of gentle waves...



The audio file has been added to your content.

Add An Audio From An External URL

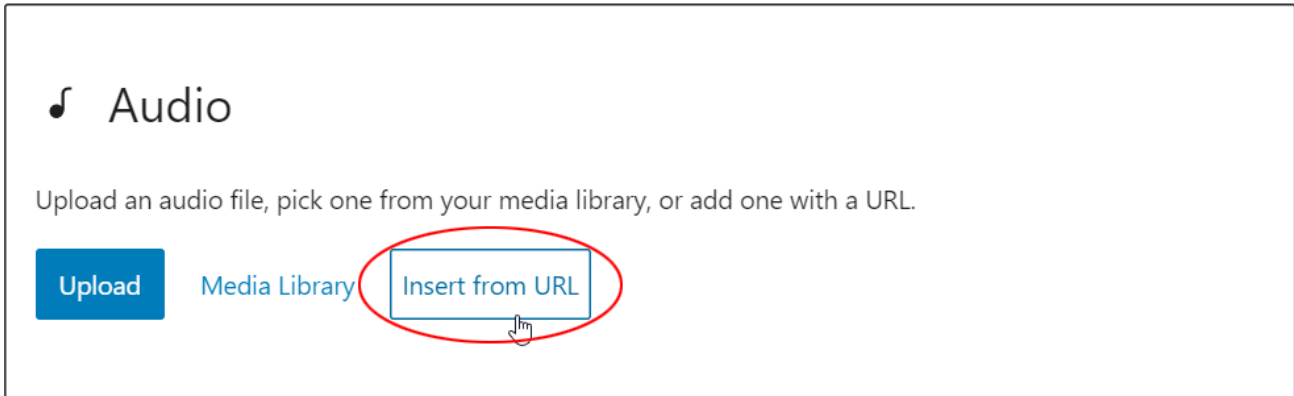
You can add audio to your posts or pages from an external URL.

To add an audio file from an external URL:

- Make sure you have uploaded your audio file to your server or an external cloud storage location (e.g. Amazon S3, Dropbox, etc.)
- Copy the audio file URL.
- Select the Audio block and click the 'Insert from URL' button.
- Paste the audio URL from your clipboard into the URL field.
- Click 'Apply' to insert the audio into your content.

Let's go through the above process.

After uploading your audio file to an external storage location and copying its URL to your clipboard, select the Audio block and click on the 'Insert from URL' button.



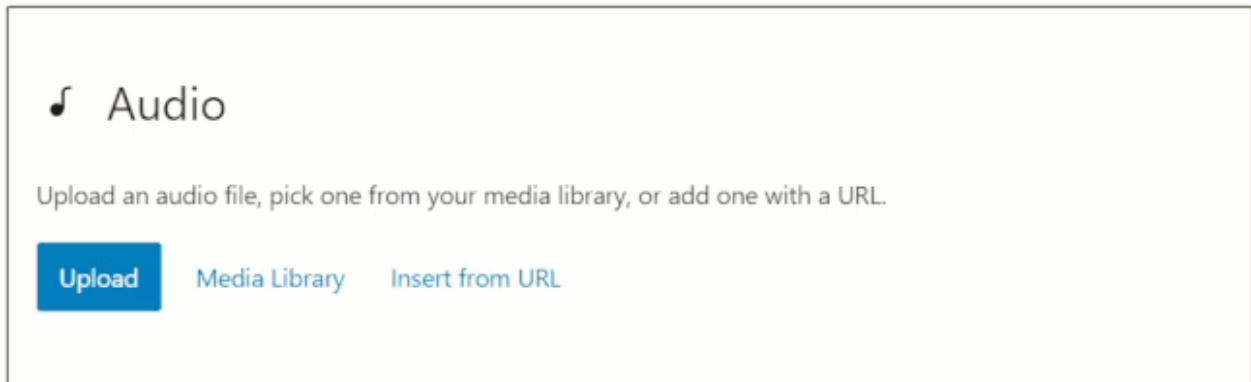
Click the Insert from URL button.

Paste the audio URL into the URL field and click 'Apply' to add the audio file to your post or page.



Listen to the ocean...

Relax to the sound of gentle waves...

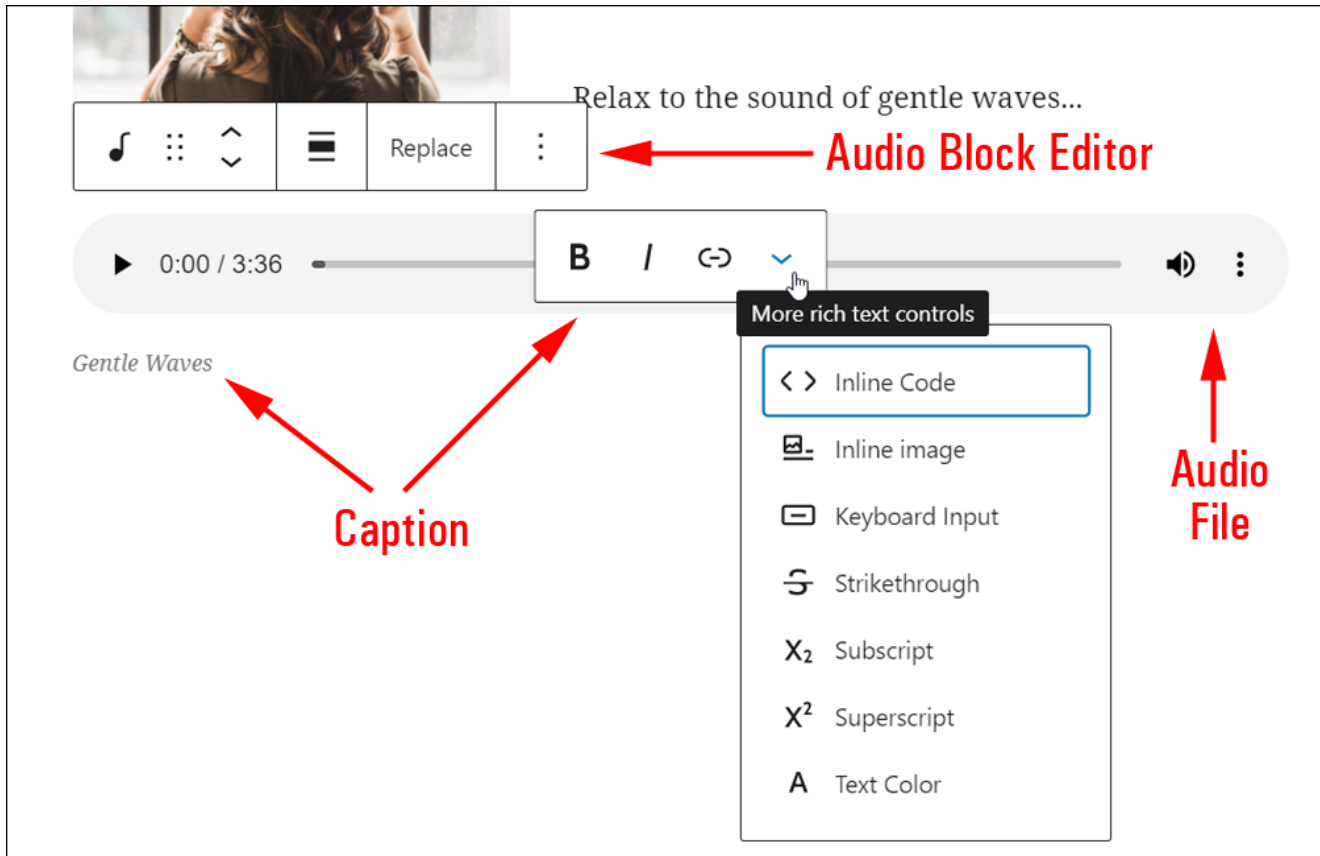


Adding an audio file from an external URL.

After adding audio files to your content, you can:

- Edit and configure the block settings,
- Save, publish, or update your post or page.

How To Edit An Audio Block



Edit your audio block settings.

To edit an Audio block:

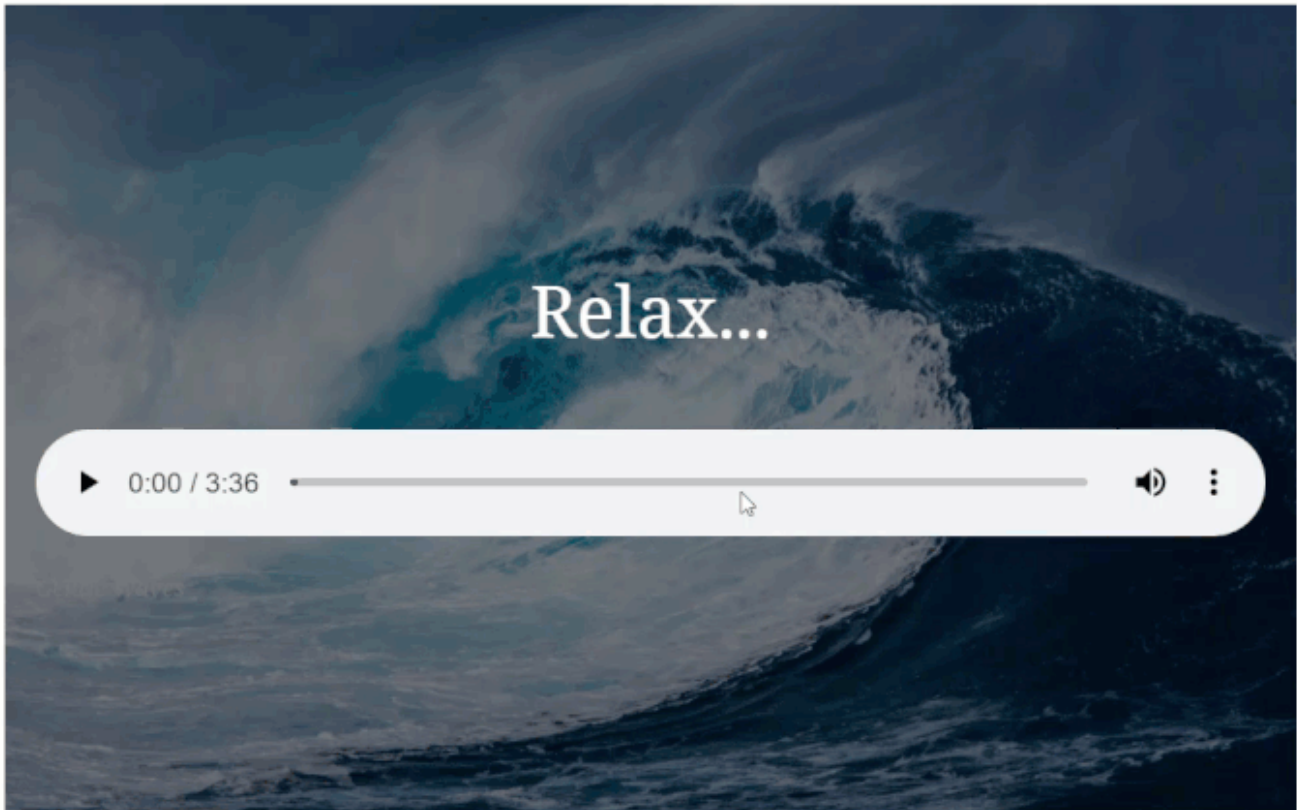
- Click inside the Audio block to select it.
- Use the *Block Editor* tools to:
 - Change the position of the audio player (left, center, right).
 - Change the player width settings (wide, full).
 - Add and format a caption for your audio file.
 - Edit the settings (replace the audio file).
- Use the *Block Settings* to:
 - Change audio settings (autoplay, loop)
 - Change preload settings (none, auto, metadata).

Let's go through some of the above options.

Changing the alignment of your audio player lets you embed audio files with text and images.

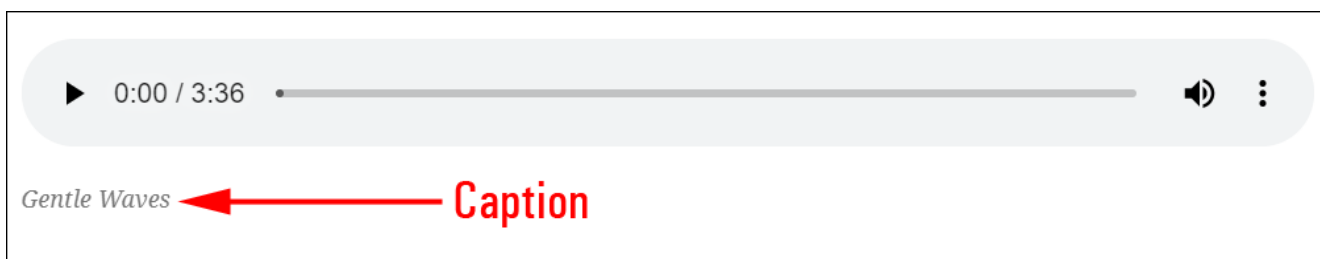


Relax to the sound of gentle waves...



Change the alignment of your audio player.

Add a caption to help users identify the content of your audio file.



Add a caption to your audio file.

Caption text formatting options for your audio file include:

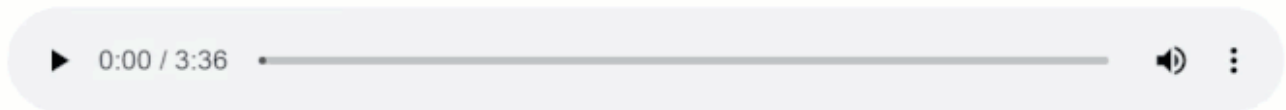
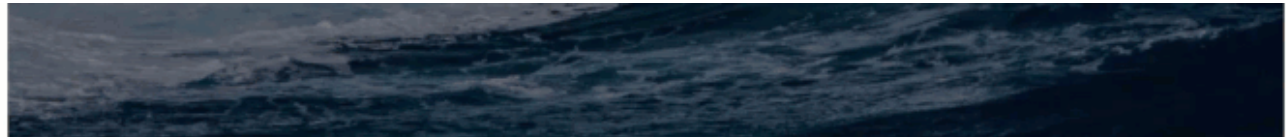
- **Bold** – Add bold formatting.
- **Italics** – Add italics to caption text.
- **Link/Unlink** – Add a hyperlink.
- **More rich text controls** – See [How To Use Blocks](#) to learn more about using rich text control settings.

Remember to update and publish your post or page to save your settings.

How To Remove An Audio Block

To delete or remove an audio block from your content:

- Click inside the Audio block to select it.
- Select the 'More Options' tool in the Block Editor.
- Click on 'Remove Block'.
- The block will be removed from your post or page.



Gentle Waves



Audio block – Remove block.

Additionally...

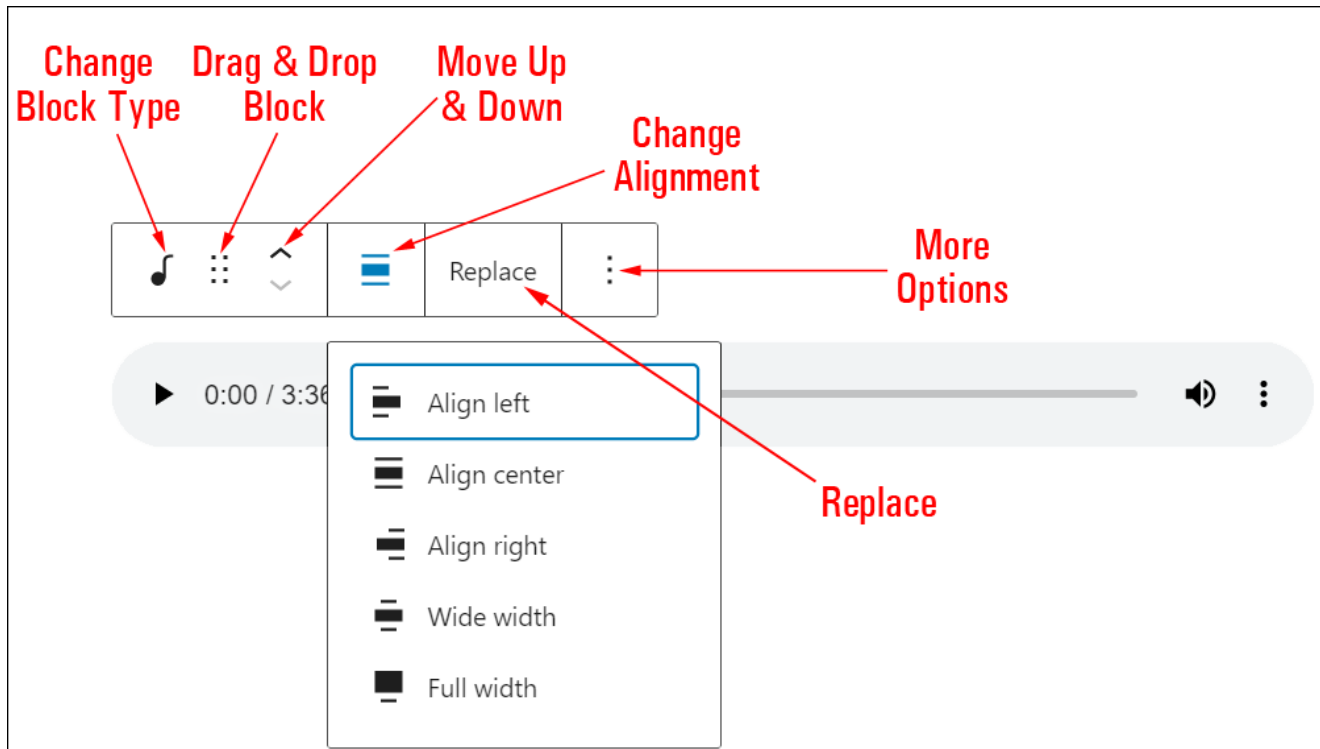
- You can reposition your block using the 'Move Up' and 'Move Down' arrows or the Drag and Drop handle tool (see our [How To Use Blocks](#) tutorial if you need help with this step).
- You can also convert an Audio block into a **Reusable block**.

Audio Block Tools, Options & Settings

The *Audio Block* includes tools, options, and settings for:

- Audio Block Editor
- Audio Block Settings

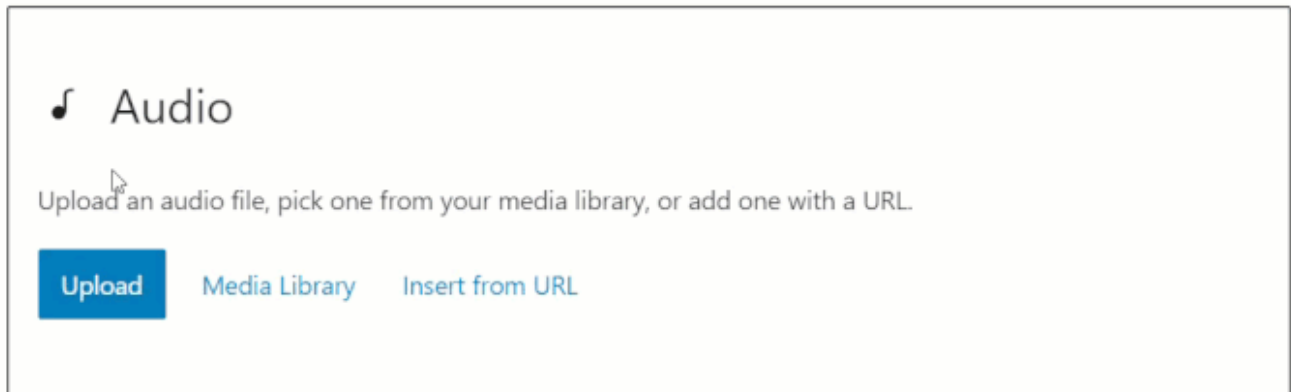
Audio Block Editor



Audio block editor.

The *Audio Block Editor* includes tools that let you perform the following operations:

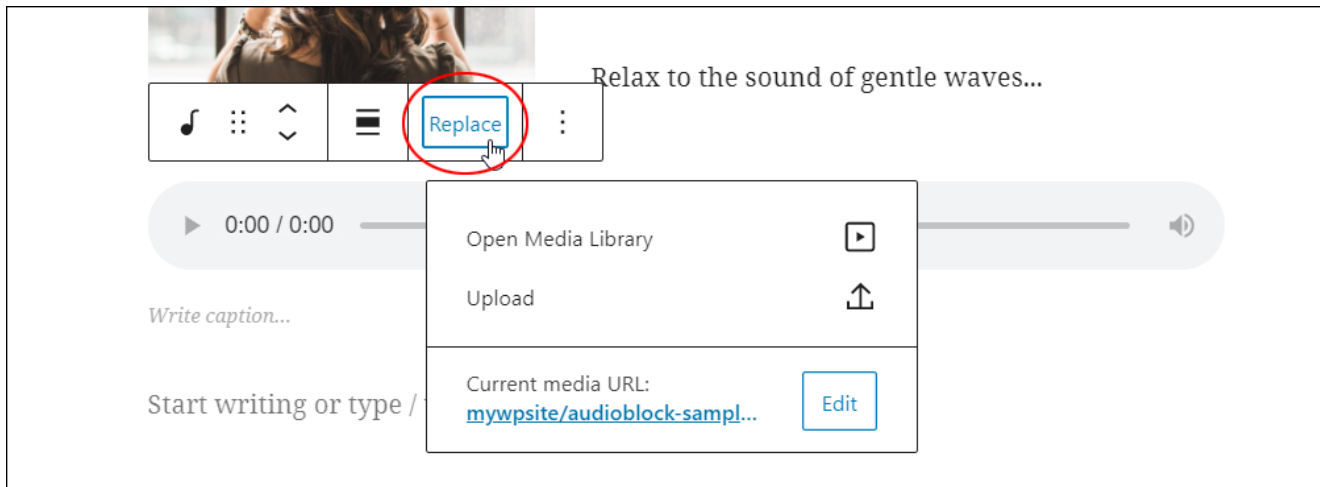
- **Change Block Type** (See '*Audio Block – Additional Info*' section below.)
- **Drag & Drop Tool**
- **Move Up and Down Tool**
- **Align Player**
 - Align left
 - Align center
 - Align right
 - Wide width – makes the block stick out on either side of regular content.
 - Full width – makes the block stretch over the entire width of the browser window (regular content remains within margins on either side).
- **More Options** – See [How To Use Blocks](#) to learn how to use this section.



Audio block editor menu.

Note: When an audio block containing an audio file is selected, the editor menu displays an option to **Replace** the audio file.

Click the Replace button to replace the audio file in your audio block using the Media Library, by uploading a new file, or by editing the current audio file's URL.



Audio block editor- Audio file selected.

Audio Block Settings

Relax to the sound of gentle waves...

Audio Block Description →

Audio Settings →

Advanced Settings →

Post Block ×

Audio
Embed a simple audio player.

Audio settings ^

Autoplay

Loop

Preload
Browser default v

Advanced ^

HTML anchor

Enter a word or two — without spaces — to make a unique web address just for this heading, called an "anchor." Then, you'll be able to link directly to this section of your page.

[Learn more about anchors](#)

Additional CSS class(es)

Separate multiple classes with spaces.

Audio block settings.

Audio block settings include:

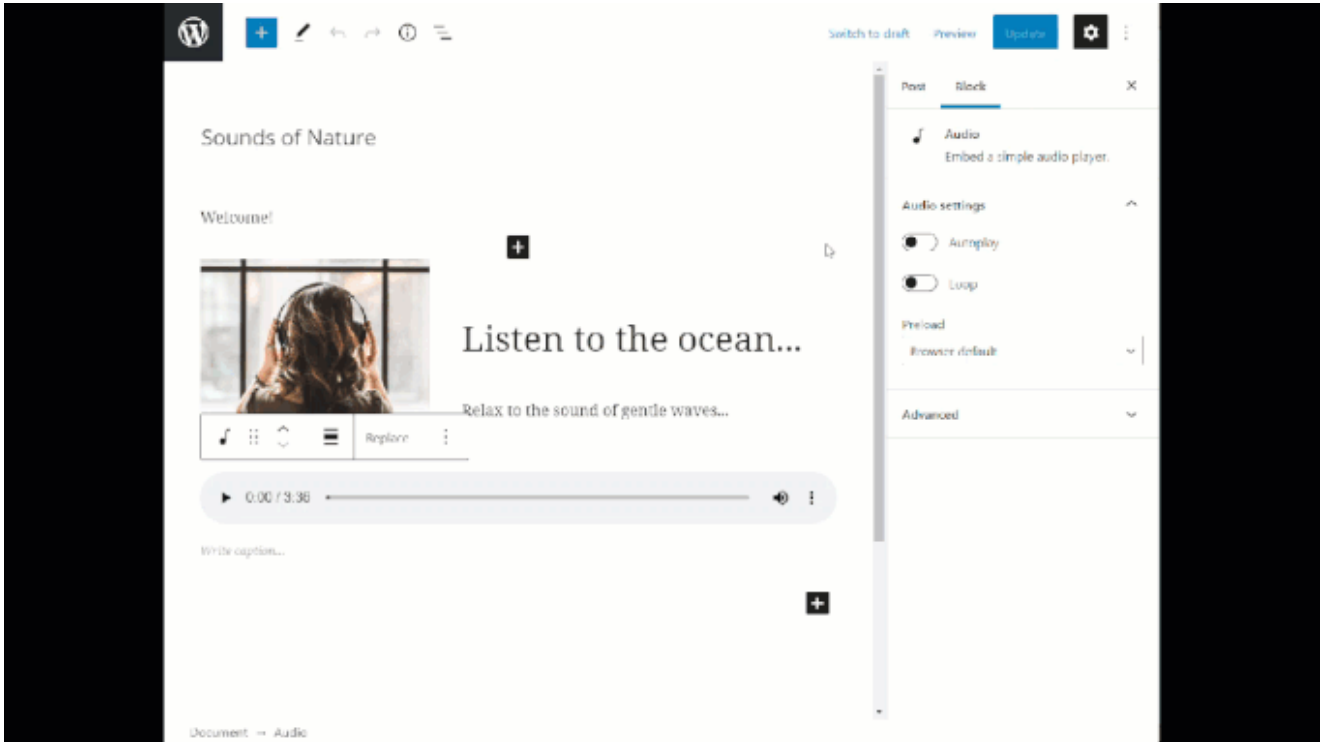
- **Block description area**

- **Audio Settings**

- *Autoplay (On/Off)* – Set the audio to begin playing as soon as the page is loaded on a visitor's browser.
- *Loop (On/Off)* – Set the audio file to loop after playing.
- *Preload*: This option allows you to select how much of the audio file is downloaded when the page or post is loaded. While it may be tempting to go ahead and have the whole file download automatically, this can slow your page's load speed down. Settings include:
 - *Browser default* – The user's browser settings control the audio file's download.
 - *Auto* – The audio starts loading as soon as the page loads. The entire audio file is downloaded, regardless of whether the visitor clicks the Play button or not. Note: This will create the biggest impact on your page or post's load speed, especially with larger audio files.
 - *Metadata* – Only basic info about the file (i.e. metadata) will be downloaded automatically: dimensions, first frame, tracklist, duration, etc. Like the *None* option below, the audio file only begins downloading when someone clicks Play. This setting is also very fast, as the only thing downloaded is text. There's not much difference between selecting *None* and *Metadata*.
 - *None* – No preload is done. Nothing about the audio file is downloaded automatically. The download of the audio file only begins when your visitor clicks the Play button. This is the fastest setting.

- **Advanced Settings**

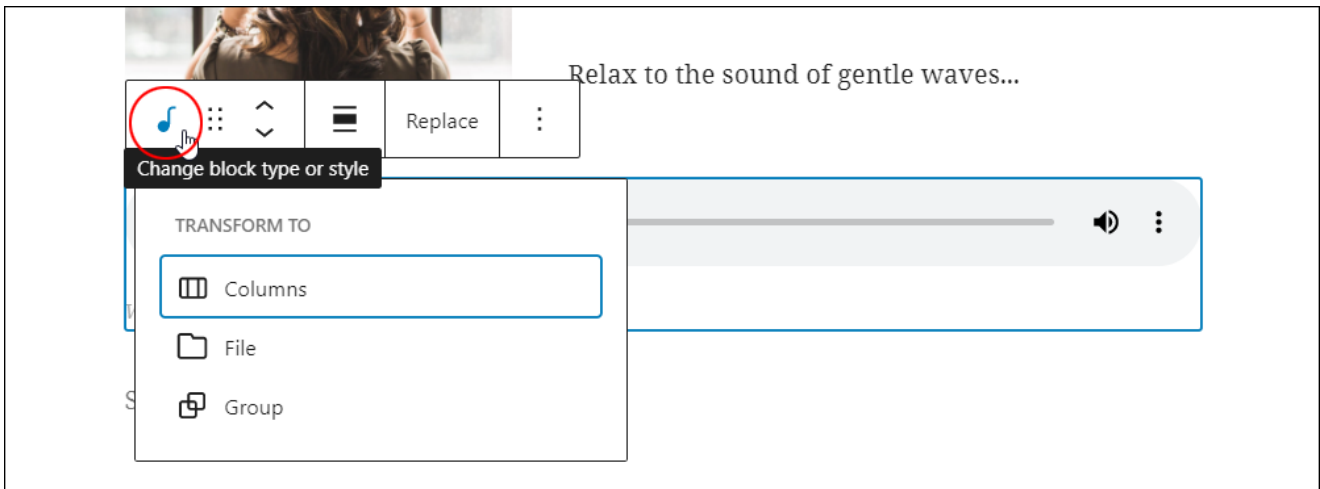
- *HTML Anchor* – Create a unique web address to send users directly to this block using a unique jump link URL. To learn more about using HTML Anchors, see our tutorial on **How To Use Blocks**.
- *Additional CSS Class(es)* – This field lets you add multiple CSS classes to your block separated with spaces. This allows you to write custom CSS and style the block as you see fit. Note: This requires having knowledge of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets).



Audio block – using the settings section.

Audio Block – Additional Info

The *Audio block* can be converted into the following block types:



Audio block – Change block type.



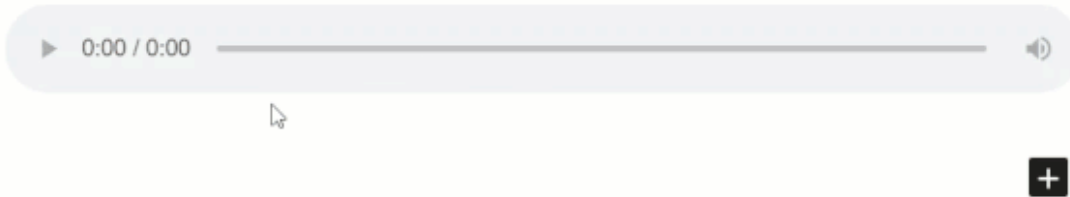
Notes:

Changing an *Audio block* into a *File block* allows users to download your audio file.



Listen to the ocean...

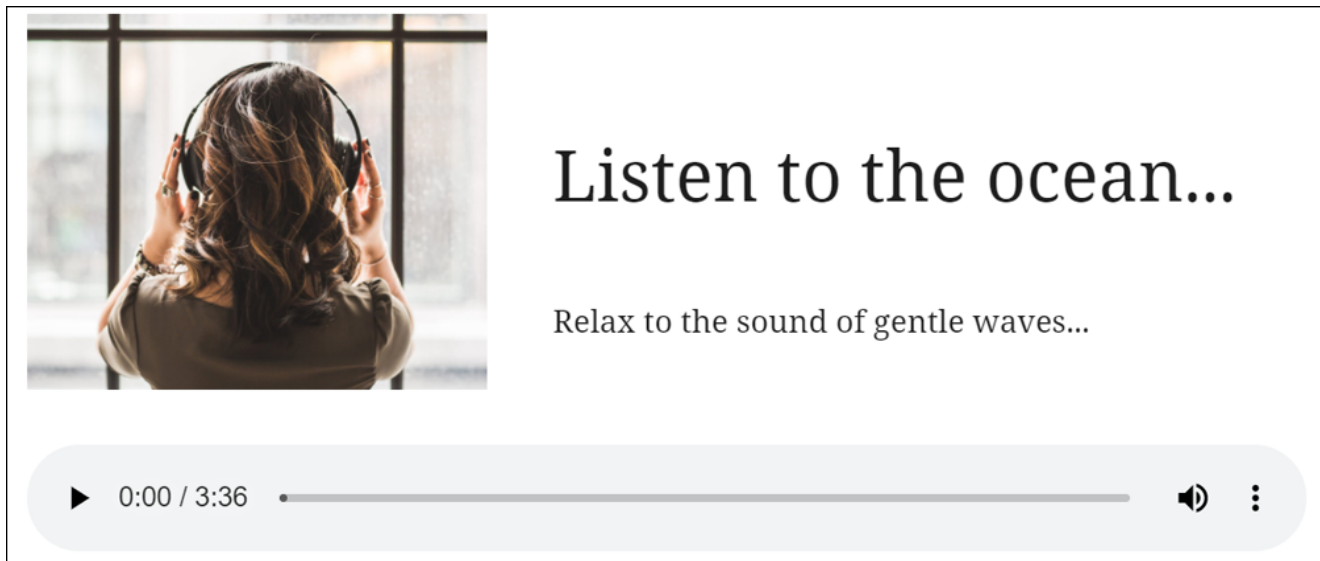
Relax to the sound of gentle waves...



Changing an audio block to a file block makes your audio file downloadable.

Additionally:

Installing **plugins** or **themes** on your site may add new functionality, options, or settings to an Audio block.



WordPress Block Editor – Audio Block

Congratulations! Now you know how to use the WordPress content editor's **Audio block**.

For tutorials on how to use other blocks, go here: [**WordPress Block Editor – How To Use Blocks**](#)

Updated: April 8th, 2023

