

DIGITAL AUDIO SIGNAL CODING AND/OR DECODING METHOD**ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for high efficiency encoding audio signals. The high-efficiency encoding apparatus includes a transform circuit for transforming an input signal into frequency components and a signal component separating circuit for separating the frequency components into tonal components and noisy components. The high-efficiency encoding apparatus also includes a tonal component encoding circuit for encoding tonal components and a noisy component encoding circuit for encoding noisy components. The tonal components are made up only of signal components of a specified band and encoded along with the information specifying the band. The noisy components are normalized and quantized every pre-set encoding unit and encoded along with the quantization precision information. The information on the numbers of quantization steps of the noisy components is encoded with a smaller number of bits for the high-range side than for the low-range side.

Figure 11