

Audio Recording on a Shoestring Budget

From the Kentucky Public Information Office (i.e., Tightwad Central)

Microphone:

A full studio kit like the ZINGYOU Condenser Microphone Bundle, BM-800 from Amazon is only \$35 and does a remarkably adequate job. The scissor arm and pop filter are great add-ons that will improve your audio quality. You'll need at least 2 of these sets depending on how many people will be talking in your podcast.



Mixer:

For mixing your sound, something like the Neewer Stereo Mixer Compact Mini Mixing Console would do a great job at only \$60 on Amazon. Be sure to get a model that will handle all your microphones. This model handles up to 4 mics with great frequency range control. This can plug right into your computer's sound card through the line or microphone in connector.

Software:

We record right onto our computers. A program that we use that has proven to be user friendly and robust is Audacity, a free open source audio recording and editing program. You will need to download an .MP3 plug-in to export files in .MP3 format (also available free on the site).



Other Considerations:



I would recommend some sort of sound proofing to cover up computer hum and outside noises, as well as to lessen the hollowness that can come from hard unadorned walls (drywall, paneling, concrete, etc.). Something as simple as inexpensive drapes on 2 walls can do the trick. I keep a large bath sheet (towel) under my desk in my office and hang it over one side of my desk and my computer and that does wonders for voice-over recordings.

If you are setting up a dedicated studio, acoustic foam wall tiles are the way to go. Twelve 1" thick tiles (covers 12 square feet) start at \$20 on Amazon. You'll likely need at least 2 boxes (24 sq. ft.), and place them on 2 adjacent walls at the height your head will be while recording your audio. We covered 3 adjacent walls in our audio studio with about 60 sq. ft. of 2" thick tiles.

Amazon is not the only place to locate these items, but it is easy to use and reputable. B&H Camera, Markertek, and Full Compass are also very good A/V companies with excellent over-the-phone buyer/customer support. But be careful using other "fly-by-night" sites that may offer less expensive items. Equipment may be less reliable and the warranties may be worthless.