

YOUR HOME PODCASTING GEAR

If you're the DIY type and want to podcast all on your own, by all means. But if you're thinking "I've got an iPhone with the Voice Memo app - can't I simply record my podcast using that?" The short answer is "Yes". The long answer is "If you care about how your podcast sounds, no".

There's no need to get into the technical aspects of microphone quality, compression algorithms and file formats. Simply suffice it to say - if you have ever shot a video at a concert and then watched it the next day, you have heard how far the audio fell short compared to what your ears heard the night before.

But fret not aspiring DIY podcaster. If you're willing to invest a bit of time, energy and a few bucks (not a lot, if you don't want to), you can pull together what's needed to sound your best at home. NOTE: podcasts and their formats vary. Everyone's needs are different. If you have specific questions, please reach out (info@podproaudio.com).



STORAGE - If you have enough computer storage available, great. Still - back up your work. We love and use Lacie drives in the studio . . . as well as on the go. (1 TB of storage for roughly \$95).

COMPUTER - Just about any Apple or Windows machine sold since 2015 will suffice. We prefer to steer clear of Windows OS, though. For many reasons, Macs are the preferred tool for content creators.

If Windows is your only option - that's fine . . . but be prepared for some challenges getting your computer, software, mic(s) and interface to play along nicely.

No matter the OS - take a look at your software options and determine the compatibility and specifications necessary for your computer to run them.



HEADPHONES - Popular with pros and reasonably priced - we use the Sony MDR 7506 Professional Closed Back Headphones (approx. \$100).



INTERFACE - We like the FocusRite Scarlett 2i2 (approx. \$160). It provides two channels of input, 48v phantom power, 1/4" headphone jack out and left/right 1/4" outputs. In fact, we like it so much that it's part of our mobile recording set-up.



SOFTWARE (aka DAW) - This does the work of converting sounds (typically your voice) into digital files.

Most pros either work with Avid Pro Tools or Apple Logic Pro. The pro versions of these DAWs can be expensive and overkill for the DIY podcaster. Fortunately - some Interface manufacturers (see below) bundle basic versions of professional DAWs with their hardware.

Other options include:

- Adobe Audition: free month trial, \$21/month there-after - arguably the most advanced of these options
- GarageBand: free download from the Apple App store - a close second to Audition
- Audacity: free online download - the least sophisticated/functionality of these options.



MIC(S) - When it comes to microphones, prices and quality can range widely. But the right mic is *essential*. We suggest three for the DIYer: 1) Blue Snowball (USB) approx. \$50, 2) Blue Yeti (USB) approx. \$130 and 3) Electro-Voice RE20 (XLR) approx. \$450. Spend time - try them out. To sound your best, you may need to spend a bit more here.

Any other questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us.

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