



PodProAudio
from Glen Muñoz Music LLC

Professional Podcasting Made Easy.

PODCAST STUDIO EQUIPMENT

“I’ve got an iPhone with the Voice Memo app - can’t I simply record my podcast using that?”

We’ve probably all had this experience: we’re at a concert performance by our favorite musical artist . . . they start to play our favorite song . . . we pull out our smart phone, fire up the camera and shoot a video clip.

The next day, we grab our phone to check out the video from the show. The video quality is just ok - not quite in focus and a bit shaky. We think to ourselves “That definitely IS the show - but it doesn’t look exactly how I remember it.” As for the audio, we realize “This doesn’t sound anything like how I remember it. Last night sounded great - the bass was booming, the cymbals were crashing . . . but this sounds all washed out and flat”.

This is because our iPhone (or any other smart phone) can indeed record video and audio, but it’s not made to record **high-quality** video or audio.

If you want to sound your best you’ll need to put a bit of time, energy and perhaps a few bucks into having the right hardware and software.

But don’t worry - it doesn’t have to cost a lot.

Every podcast scenario varies slightly - so everyone’s solution is unique. Still - if you use these steps as an outline, you’ll be well on your way.

“Great - I get it. So what do I need?”

Depending on the number of simultaneous voices and the complexity of your podcast, you can add / subtract to the list below. But let’s assume an in-person, one-on-one, interview-style podcast.

We’ll start at the “end” of the process and work our way to the “front”.

Storage

With each recording, you’ll be creating digital audio files. You’ll need to store those files somewhere. If you have enough storage available on your computer, great - that will do just fine. Still, it sometimes happens where someone’s computer crashes and they lose everything - so it’s a good idea to have all your hard work backed-up.

Whether you just need a back-up drive - or want an additional drive for storage as well - we love and use **Lacie drives** in the studio . . . as well as on the go. (1 TB of storage for approx. \$95).





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Computer

Just about any Apple or Windows machine sold since 2015 will suffice - so you should hopefully not have to spend any money here. If - however - you do need a new computer, we highly recommend **Apple MacBooks**. Yes - they are more expensive than computers that run on the Windows Operating System - but for a number of reasons, Macs are much easier to use and are more reliable for content creators like yourself.



If you have a Windows machine - or only have the budget for a new Windows machine - that's fine . . . but be prepared for some challenges when it comes to getting your computer, software and microphones/DAW to play along nicely.

No matter the type computer you plan to use - take a look at your software options and determine the compatibility and specification of your computer necessary to run them.

Software (aka DAW)

Your software (or Digital Audio Workstation) does the work of taking the sounds (typically your voice) that enter your computer and converting them into digital files.

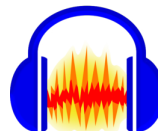
Most professional recording studios either work with Avid Pro Tools or Apple Logic Pro. The professional versions of these programs are expensive and needlessly advanced for podcasters.

However - some Audio Interface manufacturers (covered on the next page) bundle basic versions of **Pro Tools** or **Logic** 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





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Audio Interface

If you plan to only record yourself, then you'll be able to get by with a USB mic plugged directly into your computer - in which case, you won't need for an audio interface.



Assuming - however - the in-person, one-on-one, interview-style format, you'll need an audio interface to get multiple signals (microphones) into your computer and to your recording software. We recommend the **FocusRite Scarlett 2i2** (approx. \$160). It connects via USB and provides you with two channels of input, 48v phantom power to power XLR condenser mics, 1/4" headphone jack out and left/right 1/4" outputs.

We like it so much that the FocusRite Scarlett 2i2 is part of our mobile recording set-up.

If you feel you'll need more channels - if, for example, you plan to have in-person round-table conversations as part of your podcast - FocusRite offers other Scarlett interfaces with either four or eight channels of input.

Microphones

When it comes to microphones, prices and quality can range widely. We can suggest three different microphones - any of which may suffice.

Options include:

- **Blue Snowball:** USB Microphone (approx. \$50)
- **Blue Yeti:** USB Microphone (approx. \$130)
- **Electro-Voice RE20 Dynamic Broadcast Microphone:** XLR Microphone (approx. \$450)



As you can see, there is quite a range in pricing. If you're just starting out and not too concerned with getting the deepest vocal sound quality - and/or you are the only person you're recording "on-site" - any USB-connected mic from Blue will suffice.

However - if your goal is to have a truly professional-sounding podcast - and/or you plan to record multiple vocal tracks "on site" - this would be the place to spend a bit more . . . either on the Electro-Voice or a similar XLR-connected condenser mic.

Mic Stand(s)

In order to avoid picking up unwanted noises while getting the best quality vocal recording possible, it's important to get your mic close to (but not directly in front of) your mouth. It's advisable to use a desk-top, table-mounted or floor-standing mic-stand for this purpose (most USB and all XLR mics can be mounted to these stands).



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XLR Cable(s)

If you're using XLR mics (like the Electro-Voice), you'll need XLR cables to connect your mics to your interface.



Pop Screen(s)

Finally, let's get the pop screens in place. These will help to prevent percussive sounds (p's, t's and k's) from hitting your mic and distorting your sound.

Once your mic is set up, it should look something like this.

...or this.



Headphones



If nothing else, you'll want to be able to listen back to your recordings to ensure they are free of unwanted sounds as well as free of any distortion (which occurs when the recording levels are too high).

This can easily be done with a set of over-the-ear headphones with a 1/4" male jack. We like the **Sony MDR 7506 Professional Closed Back Headphones** (approx. \$100).

If two people will want to simultaneously hear the playback, pick up a 1/4" headphones splitter (for a few bucks) and a second set of headphones.





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Multi-channel Headphone Splitters

If you need to enable up to four in-person participants to listen in, we suggest the **Behringer MicroAMP HA-400 Headphone Amplifier** (approx \$24). In the unlikely event that more than four participants need to listen in, splitters that offer more channels are available.

Let's start podcasting!

Now that you have all the hardware and software you need, you can begin to set-up your podcast studio.

Still have questions? Looking for recording tips? Need help with the finer points of podcast studio set-up?

Visit us anytime at podproaudio.com/contact and we'll be happy to lend a hand.

After all - this is what we do . . . and you deserve to SOUND YOUR BEST.

