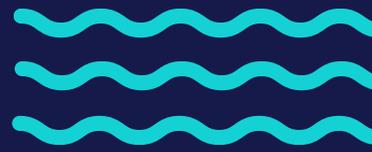


# EQUIPMENT



## EVERYTHING YOU NEED

TO START  
RECORDING  
GREAT  
AUDIO



Explora**STORY**  
EVERYONE HAS A STORY. LET'S TELL YOURS. Studios 



# GUIDE



# WHAT'S INSIDE

## GET RECORDING!

Microphones

Webcams

Headphones

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Want to know more? Visit [exploraSTORYstudios.com](https://exploraSTORYstudios.com). You can also [book some time on my calendar](#) or email me at [sarah@explorastorystudios.com](mailto:sarah@explorastorystudios.com)

# MICROPHONES

The right microphone can make a world of difference in your audio quality. The truth is, you can start a podcast with just about any mic, but you'll save yourself or your editor a lot of headaches, and ensure easy listening for your audience by investing in a decent mic.

## DYNAMIC VS. CONDENSER MICS

Dynamic:

- Can record high volumes without distortion
- Great choice for podcasting, voiceovers, general voice recording

Condenser:

- Clear, detailed sound with crisper highs
- Not well-suited for use outside of a professional studio with proper soundproofing.

## BEST MIC FOR RECORDING AT HOME

My top recommendation for at-home recording is a dynamic mic with a cardioid pattern. This will record your voice well, and not pick up as much household background noise.

## PRO TIP

Keep your mic close to your mouth when recording for the best quality sound.

# MICROPHONES

## SHURE MV7 PODCAST MICROPHONE



**PRICE: \$249.99**

This mic was designed with podcasting in mind making it an excellent choice for voice work. It's easy to use, and works well in most recording situations, even if you don't have a professional studio setting.

### **RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES**

- Broadcast Boom Stand
- Desktop Mic Stand

### **QUICK FACTS**

- XLR or USB Connector
- Dynamic
- Cardioid
- Optimized Frequency Response
- Touch Panel Controls
- Built-in Headphone Jack

# MICROPHONES

## SHURE SM7B CARDIOID DYNAMIC MICROPHONE



**PRICE: \$399.99**

While this one might be a bit pricey for a hobbyist podcaster or someone just starting out, it can handle most recording situations with grace. This quality mic can handle recording in your home office, and with proper editing can easily achieve broadcast quality. The sound is crisp and clear, and background noise is minimal.

### **RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES**

- Broadcast Arm With Internal Springs
- XLR to USB Signal Adaptor
- Cloudlifter Amp

### **QUICK FACTS**

- XLR Connector
- Dynamic
- Cardioid

# MICROPHONES

## RODE PODMIC CARDIOID DYNAMIC PODCASTING MIC



**PRICE: \$99.99**

This mic is hands-down my favorite budget mic for voice work. With a windscreen, pop filter, and proper editing, this will easily get you to broadcast quality and rival more expensive mics

### RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

- Shock mount with integrated pop shield
- Windscreen
- Mini-Tripod Stand
- XLR to USB Signal Adaptor

### QUICK FACTS

- XLR Connector
- Dynamic
- Cardioid
- Internal pop filter to minimize plosives
- Internal shock mounting to reduce vibration

# MICROPHONES

## MICROPHONES TO AVOID



### STEER CLEAR

Blue Yeti and Blue Snowball mics. These popular mics make the top of my "steer clear" list. Unless you're in a super soundproofed area, you won't likely get the desired result with these mics.

### TRIGGER WARNING

There are so many great mics out there, so if yours wasn't listed above, not to worry. That's why I also want to add a section of mics that you'd be wise to avoid in podcasting. I'm probably about to trigger some folks as these are popular mics, and while they're better than your laptop's built-in mic, there are some extra steps required to ensure optimal sound.

### ON A BUDGET? TRY THESE MICS!

[Samson Q2U Bundle](#)

[Shure SM48](#)

# WEBCAMS

Are you adding a video component to your show? Perhaps adding this to YouTube, Patreon, or your site? You'll want a decent webcam. Here are a few of my favorites.

## DO I NEED 4K?

4K is really nice, but not all that necessary. Awesome to have if you want it, but remember, not all programs or computers will even record in 4K and for those that do, be prepared for large file sizes.

## PRO TIP

Always test your camera during the time of day that you will be using it most, especially in rooms with lots of natural light.

## WEBCAMS FOR PODCASTING

- [Razer Kiyo](#)
- [Logitech C922x](#)
- [Mevo Plus](#)



# HEADPHONES

Headphones can be a really important piece of your recording setup.



## HEADPHONES

- [Symphonized Wraith](#)
- [Sony MDR7506](#)
- [Audio-Technica ATH-M20X](#)
- [OneOdio A71](#)

## WHY DO I NEED HEADPHONES?

Headphones can play a powerful role in creating a high-quality recording.

They allow you to discover recording issues and anomalies in real time such as the recording stopping or your fan being audible in the recording.

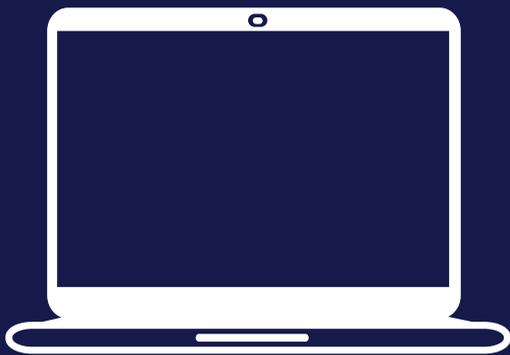
They are also ESSENTIAL to recording interviews. When both you and your guest wear headphones you won't get mic bleed - meaning your mic won't pick up their audio and vice versa.

# BONUS!

A few other favorites that we'd love to share for your consideration!

## HOSTS

Blubrry - GREAT choice if you are also posting to a Wordpress site  
Buzzspout  
Libsyn

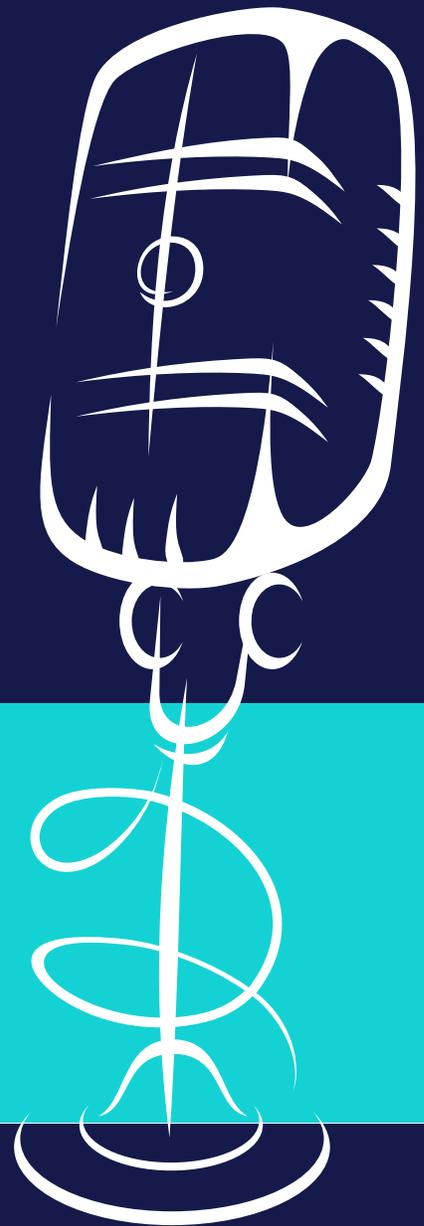


## INTERVIEW SOFTWARE

Squadcast  
Zencastr  
Riverside

## PRO TIP:

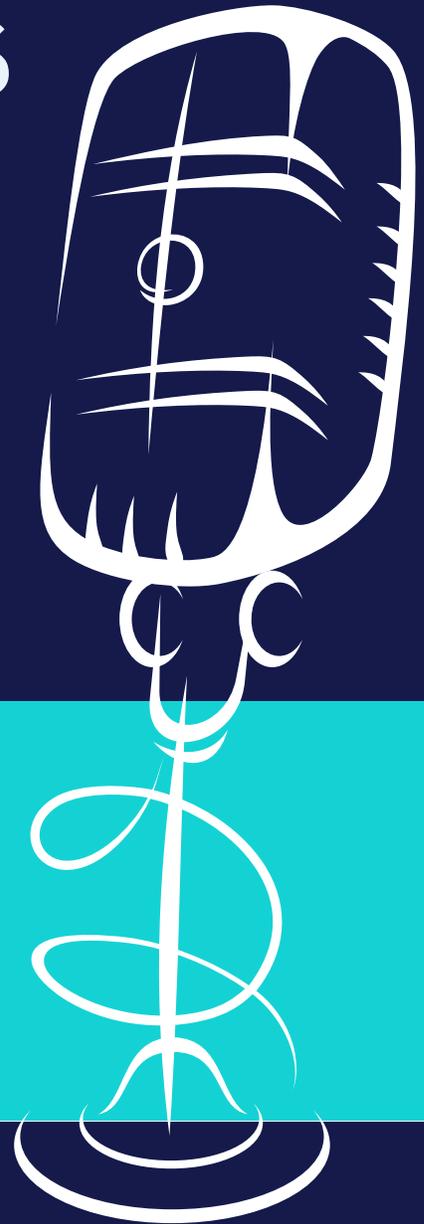
Avoid recording on Zoom. Zoom compresses audio to a very low-quality file making it difficult to get high-quality sound. If you must record in Zoom contact us for our Zoom recording settings to maximize the potential as much as possible.



# RECORDING TIPS

You'll want to check out these tips to ensure the best quality recording possible.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH A QUICK DEMONSTRATION](#)



## FILE FORMAT

Save all raw recordings in **.WAV** format. While final edits will be saved as MP3s we can get better quality edits starting with a **.WAV** file.



## MIC POSITIONING

Use a shock mount to avoid mic bump sounds.

Use the hang loose hand gesture for best placement. Your thumb should be touching your bottom lip and your pinky touching the mic.

## PRO TIP:

Position the mic slightly off to the side of your mouth. This will help ensure you get less breath and mouth noises than if you position the mic directly in front of you.

# BEFORE YOU RECORD

Watch [THIS VIDEO](#)  
to get recording  
tips and check out  
the checklist below



# Do's

- ✓ Turn off the air conditioner, any fans, or any small (or large) appliances in your vicinity
- ✓ Read your book from a tablet to avoid paper rustling or page turning
- ✓ Surround yourself with soft surfaces
- ✓ Leave 10 seconds of silence at the beginning of each recording before you begin to speak
- ✓ Sit up straight or stand to record
- ✓ Save your files in a .WAV format



# Dont's

- ✗ Keep the laptop or computer too close to the mic
- ✗ Read a paper copy of your book
- ✗ Wear jewelry that jingles or clothing that is loose fitting with a lot of movement
- ✗ Record in a large room - especially one with mostly hard surfaces
- ✗ Start speaking the moment you begin recording
- ✗ Slouch or speak into your belly button
- ✗ Save your files as an MP3

# NEED HELP WITH YOUR LAUNCH?

**Contact us!** We're excited to help you with every step of the launch and beyond to make it as easy as possible for you to share your content with your audience. Just record and leave the rest to us!

## AUDIO EDITING

Professional mixing, noise reduction, equalizing, audio cleaning (removing filler words, audible breaths, restarts)

## SHOWNOTES AND TRANSCRIPTIONS

SEO optimized shownotes and full transcriptions

## CONTENT REPURPOSING

Pull quote graphics, audiograms, videos - everything you need to market each episode!



# NEED HELP WITH YOUR AUDIOBOOK?

**Contact us!** We're excited to help you with every step of the way to make it as easy as possible for you to share your book with the widest audience possible. Whether you want to record your own voice or if you need narration, we've got you covered!

## AUDIO EDITING

Professional editing, noise reduction, equalizing, audio cleaning, and mastering Audible's quality standards

## NARRATION

Don't want to read your own book? Let us read it for you!

## GET YOUR FREE CUSTOM QUOTE

[exploraSTORYstudios.com/audiobooks](https://exploraSTORYstudios.com/audiobooks)

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