

Quick Start Guide: AUDIO BASICS

Video runs: 11:24

Good sound is very important because viewers will not tolerate sound they cannot understand.

The single best way to get decent sound is to make sure you record your audio in a quiet place. No matter what kind of microphone you are using, the cheapest to the best, you need quiet.

Have mic an appropriate distance from the speaker. This distance varies from mic to mic.

To get the best quality voice recording with a talking head, you need to plug in a supplemental microphone.

Very few consumer grade cameras or pocket cameras have a place to plug in a separate microphone.

Lavaliers look best on camera because they disappear, they're so small.

Handheld microphones can be durable and cheap and good for on-the-go-situations.

Desk mics are usually used in voice-only situations where you're not seen, like radio, or voice-overs.

A boom mic, AKA a shot gun mic is used when you are going to be picking up audio at a distance of several feet. Specialized ones can really go far, 20-30 feet away.

If you're buying a microphone, think about whether you need a wireless one or wired. Both have pros and cons.

Wireless mics cost more and the cheap wireless mics tend to be deadly frustrating.

Wireless mics are good for shooting out in the field, especially when the people on camera are moving around a lot.

But if your people are not moving around you don't really need the wireless mics you can get by with wired.

I made a cheap, easy, portable audio "booth" from a tri-fold piece of cardboard with egg-crate foam glued onto it.

If you want to add music or something to your voice, that is done in editing.

To avoid licensing fees, use royalty free music.

Music is one of the easiest ways to set a creative tone.