

# Building a Podcasting Kit

This list is in no way comprehensive; it just provides a starting point! Expect a basic podcasting kit to cost about \$150 for a digital recorder, microphone, and software. This list assumes you have a computer with a sound card.

## Microphones

- Good:
  - Audio-Technica consumer-level microphones [\$30-\$60] -This type of microphone can connect to a mixer, a recorder, or your computer. Quality is decent (better than built-in audio).
  - Logitech USB microphone - \$25-\$30 - This type of microphone connects directly to your computer so you can record straight to audio software. Quality is decent. Requires computer.
- Better:
  - Sennheiser E845 [\$79-\$149] Internal damping, clarity and high-frequency response can handle recording in a lot of different situations.
  - Plantronics DSP USB Headsets – [\$45-\$150] These USB headsets deliver excellent sound quality. Requires computer.
- Best:
  - Heil PR-40 XLR Dynamic Microphone [\$269.99] This type of microphone can be attached to a mixer, a recorder, or a computer. It delivers excellent sound quality.

## Recorders (these allow you to do mobile recording)

- Olympus WS-100 Digital Voice Recorder [\$83 or \$32 reconditioned] Easy all-in-one digital recorder requires no tapes and can record up to 18 hours of audio at HQ settings. Download resulting WMA files to your computer via built-in USB. Record using internal microphone or attach an external microphone for better recording quality. USB is built-in for connecting to a computer.
- Zoom H4 digital recorder [\$295] Uses SD cards for storage. Great quality at a reasonable price. Attach mini-jack or XLR microphones. Also can be attached to a mixer.
- Marantz PMD 660 recorder [\$499] Uses CF cards for storage. Attach XLR microphones for excellent quality, or use built-in microphone for decent quality. Also can be attached to a mixer. Non-intuitive interface has learning curve.

## Mixers (when you want to step up to using multiple inputs)

- Behringer Xenyx 802 [\$59.95] Has 8 inputs (two XLR). Also has line out for attaching recorder.
- Behringer Xenyx 1202 [\$100] Has 12 inputs (4 XLR). Multiple options for line out as well.

## Audio Editing Software

- Windows: Audacity (freeware, [audacity.sourceforge.net/](http://audacity.sourceforge.net/)); Audio Editor Pro (\$39.95, [www.audioeditorpro.com/](http://www.audioeditorpro.com/))
- Mac: Audio Hijack Pro & Fission (\$50, [rogueamoeba.com/](http://rogueamoeba.com/)); Garage Band (\$79 – comes as part of iLife, [www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/](http://www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/))