



QUALITY AUDIO FOR VIDEO: AN INTRODUCTION



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Why It's So Important

SOUND FOR VIDEO IS OFTEN POORLY UNDERSTOOD AND IGNORED. GOOD AUDIO BRINGS PRODUCTIONS UP TO A HIGHER STANDARD. BAD AUDIO CAN DESTROY A VIDEO'S IMPACT AND CAUSE THE VIEWER TO TUNE OUT. WITH SOME CONSIDERATION AND PLANNING, QUALITY SOUND IN A VIDEO PRODUCTION CAN BE EASILY ACHIEVED.

UNDERSTANDING SIGNAL FLOW

- Path of the audio signal from its source to its destination
- *Simple Example: Voice > Microphone > Cable > Camera audio input*
- The sound you capture will only be as good as the weakest link in the chain
- To troubleshoot, start at the source and work your way down the signal flow to find the problem

MICROPHONE OPTIONS

- Built in microphone (camera, computer)
- *Shotgun mics*
- *Lavaliers*
- Digital recorders
- Handheld mics
- Others

BUILT IN MICROPHONE

- Not good for close-up dialogue or speaking to the camera
- Ok for general sound capture such as backgrounds and environments but that's about it
- Sounds thin and far away
- Audience feels disconnected
- https://youtu.be/T_IJ3rablvY

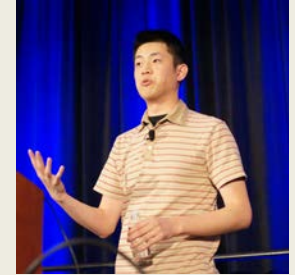


SHOTGUN MICS

- Best sounding and most often used
- Usually more expensive
- Designed to pick up sound from a couple feet away
- Will work further away but loses warmth
- Very directional
- Can be used on a boom or a mic stand depending on the situation



LAVALIERS



- Good if you have no assistance on a shoot
- Should ideally be placed around the chest
- Watch out for rubbing noise, rustling of clothing
- Can be hidden
- Wired and wireless versions
- Wireless versions can have interference however

HANDHELD MICS

- Easy to use and durable
- Sweet spot is 4-6 inches away
- Not terribly expensive
- Hand the mic to talent; news reporter
- Two types:
 - Cardioid = right in front pick up pattern
 - Omnidirectional = wider pick up pattern



AUDIO INPUT SETTINGS

- Single system = audio and video on same device
- Adjust camera audio input settings properly; might need to check the camera manual
- Switch inputs to record external microphone and not the internal mic
- Test to make sure it's correct with headphones
- Set good audio levels before recording starts

DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDERS

- Used in a dual system set up
- Dual system = audio and video on separate devices
- Vary in cost depending on quality and options; many are multi-channel
- Handy device to have; might be essential
- Might require another person to monitor



GEAR: CABLES, ADAPTERS, ETC.

- Unfortunately many different types
- XLR is the professional standard
- Familiarize yourself with your gear well in advance
- Keep a set of commonly needed adapters and cables on hand whenever you record



DEMO TIME