

Recording Sound for your Video

Sound is a very important element of your video. Record in a quiet environment at a quiet time of day. Most cameras have an inbuilt microphone but these are not ideal because they pick up the hum of the camera and are generally positioned far away from the speaker. If possible, use an external microphone, which you can place close to your subject, and which connects to the camera.

Alternatively, you can record your audio separately onto a portable recorder and synchronise it with your video later. If recording audio on a separate device, the following settings are required to synchronise correctly with your video.

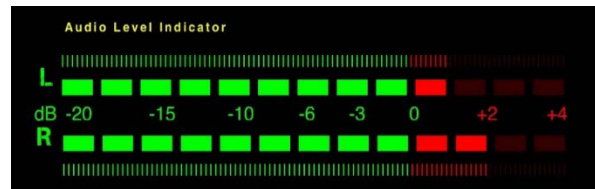
- *Frequency:* 48K
- *Bitrate:* 16 or 24 bit
- *Format:* .wav

Recommended External Recorders:

- Zoom H1 €
- Zoom H4 €€

This can become a complicated process, so if you can, record your audio directly to the camera; this will save editing-time later.

Before recording, check the audio levels going into your device. If it is too loud, the recording will 'clip' and sound distorted. Familiarise yourself with your camera settings. Most cameras will have an audio levels indicator. These generally indicate green/yellow when the audio is safe, but if the levels reach the red zone, this is a sign that your audio is distorting. The best thing to do is to record a test of your subject speaking at their lowest and highest volumes. Play back the test to ensure that your levels are safe and that you are ready to record.



Depending on the type of audio connections going into your camera, there are different types of microphones available. Common connection types are XLR and 3.5mm Stereo jack. The Rode Videomic is a good shotgun mic with a 3.5mm stereo connection. You can also use an extension cable to move this mic closer to the subject if needs be, and attach it to a boom pole. The AKG XLR Lapel mic has a long cable wired to it but it can also be extended with a generic XLR cable. This lapel mic can be attached to the speaker's shirt or jacket.

Recommended Microphones for Discreet Placement

- AKG C 417 PP – Lapel Microphone (XLR Jack)
- Rode VideoMic Rycote – Shotgun Microphone (3.5mm Stereo Jack)

Note: Some microphones, like the AKG C 417 PP, require phantom power; check that your camera or recording device can supply this before purchasing.