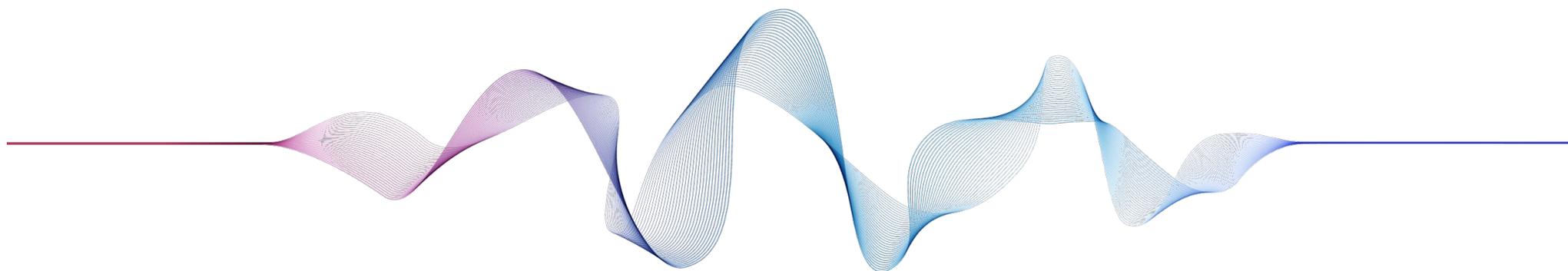# Recording voice-overs at home;
an advanced guide

VISTA Radio

Step 1: Technical Setup

Are you more of a tech-savvy individual? Or would you prefer to just plug-and-play?

For the more technically inclined, here's a list of recommended items:

★   **Shure SM7B** $535

★   **Mic Stand** $25

★   **Cloudlifter** $199 *used to turn up the SM7B without increasing noise*

★   **Focusrite Scarlett 2i2** $219 *connects the mic to the computer via USB or;*

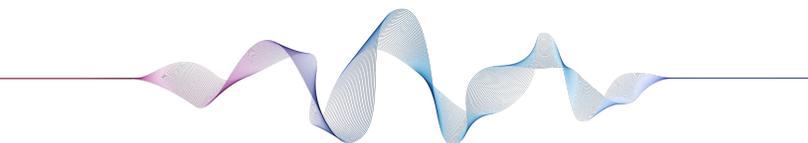★   **Zoom H5** $399 *for people that want the flexibility of recording without a computer*

Prefer a simpler plug-and-play solution? We recommended:

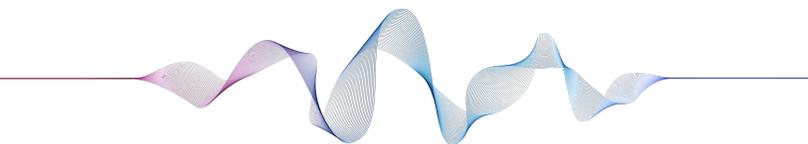★   **Blue Yeti USB Microphone** $149 j*ust plug into the computer and go!*

Both options will get you much better audio than your phone!

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Step 2: Physical Space

The ideal recording space is a small, windowless environment with carpeted floors, drapes, and few, if any, hard bare surfaces.

★ Record away from glass windows/walls, and concrete walls and floors.

★ Hard or reflective surfaces cause echos, so you should try to "dampen" the room as much as possible. A rug on the floor is a good starting point.

★ Instead of hanging things on all the walls, try to surround yourself with makeshift walls. Duvets, comforters, blankets and more can make a great 'cave' to record within.

★ Close your eyes and listen to your space for 30 seconds.
  ○ Are your ears filled with the sound of an air conditioner?
  ○ A fridge?
  ○ A barking dog or a crying baby?
  ○ Your microphone will pick up these sounds too.
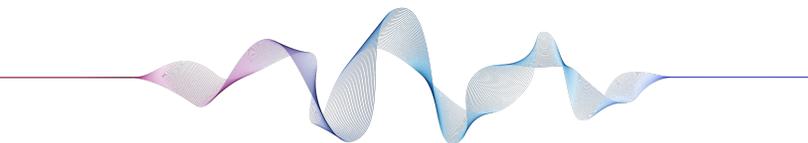
★ Turn off any loud equipment before recording.

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Step 3: Recording Tips

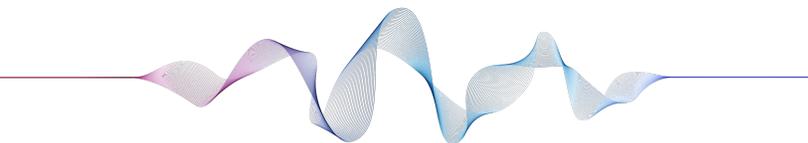**Please situate yourself as close to the microphone as possible.**

★ The closer you are to the mic, the less environmental sound is captured.

★ Important to note: closeness can also create "plosives" (AKA popping p's).
You can reduce them some with a foamy windscreen around for the mic or even a socks over the mic can work.

★ Once the space is treated and the gear is plugged in, you need a way to record.
Ideally, you want to record the audio on your own computer using a software option.

★ Software options include:

  ○ **Adobe Audition** (our favorite) $20.00 USD/month
  ○ **Audacity** Free
  ○ **Garageband** Free
  ○ **Logic Pro X** $279.99
  ○ **ProTools** $29.99 USD/month

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Recording voice-overs on an iPhone

1. **Find the 'Voice Memos' app on your home screen.**
   If you don't see it, search for it by swiping all the way to the left of your home screen and type 'Voice Memos' in the top of the search field.

2. **Find a quiet room in your home or office and open the app.**
   The goal is to find a space that isn't echo-y.
   Closets and carpeted rooms are great for this.
   Bathrooms and hard tiled areas are not.

3. **Hold the phone around 6-8 inches away from your mouth, with the charging port aimed towards you.**

4. **Hit record and read through the script several times.**

5. **Hit stop. Name and date the file.**

6. **Click the 3 dots to the left of the play button.**

7. **Select 'Share' from the menu and email the file to your account executive.**

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Recording voice-overs on an Android

1. **Find the 'Voice Memos' app on your home screen or app drawer.**
   Different Android makers may call this app different things.
   Try a search on your phone for 'Voice'.

2. **If you don't have a voice memo app, you can install one from the Play Store.**
   We recommend ASR Voice Recorder.
   The instructions below are for ASR, but should be very similar for most apps.

3. **Find a quiet room in your home or office & open the app.**
   The goal is to find a space that isn't echo-y.
   Closets and carpeted rooms are great for this
   Bathrooms and hard tiled areas are not.

4. **Hold the phone around 6-8 inches away from your mouth, with the charging port aimed towards you.**

5. **Hit record and read through the script several times.**

6. **Hit stop, then click the 3 lined icon near the top left.**

7. **Select 'Share' from the menu and email the file to your account executive.**

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