

RECORDING AUDIO AT HOME

This step-by-step guide will help you achieve great results with everyday equipment to record your voice or instrument

CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION

This will have a huge impact on your recording's quality and it's worth considering...

Background Noise

- avoid recording near windows and noisy home appliances

Echo

- avoid rooms with hard floors and surfaces
- use cushions or pillows to dampen the room's natural reverberation

SELECT A RECORDING DEVICE

Most smartphones, tablets and home computers come with an inbuilt audio recorder app or programme

HOME COMPUTER OR LAPTOP

APPLE MAC

To locate apps click the magnifying glass icon (top right hand corner of screen) and search for the app

Newer models will contain the 'Voice Memos' app

Alternatively use 'QuickTime Player' - in the app click 'File' and 'New Audio Recording'

WINDOWS PC

To locate apps click 'Start' and search for the app

Newer models will contain the 'Voice Recorder' app

For older models use the 'Sound Recorder' app

SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

ANDROID DEVICE

The 'Recorder' app is in 'Tools'

APPLE IOS DEVICE

The 'Voice Memos' app is often in 'Utilities'

I CAN'T FIND THESE!

If you do not have these on your device, visit your app store where many free audio recording apps will be available

MICROPHONE PREPARATION

It's likely that you're using a device with an inbuilt microphone, to get the best results from this...

Locate - it's not always clear where the microphone is located - do a test recording speaking into every side / end of the device - play this back and the clearest, loudest recording is the side or end that contains the microphone

Place - here is a loose starting guide to placement

	distance to device	placement recommendation
Vocals	50cm	focused just off direction of the mouth
Brass	50cm	in front of the player, just off direction of the bell (for forward facing brass)
Woodwind	50cm	focused toward the bottom of the instrument (not directly at the bell)
Strings	100cm	focused toward the instrument's body
Percussion	50cm	directly toward the instrument
Piano	100cm	centrally placed either over or in front of the instrument

Stand - use a piece of furniture or pile of books to position the device in the best location for your instrument and in the case of a home computer, if possible adjust your position in relation to the device's microphone

Unplug - for smartphones and tablets, unplug headphones and chargers

Case - remove device cases as they may muffle the inbuilt microphone

DO A TEST

Experiment - have a play with your device and see how it works, both whilst recording and playing back

Adjust - if your test recording sounds distorted or too distant, adjust your distance from the microphone

Metronome or Backing Track? - use a separate device to play this audio through headphones

THE RECORDING

Are the numbers rolling? - most recording devices display the duration of recording in minutes and seconds, always check that the numbers are counting before starting to perform your piece

Announcement - it's sometimes handy to say your name, the piece's title and recording date at the beginning of the recording

5 Seconds - wait 5 seconds after starting a recording to begin your performance and do the same at the end before stopping the recording

