

Auditioning with Audacity Class Notes

vo2gogo.com
presents
Auditioning With Audacity
Created by David H. Lawrence XVII

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This is an Art and Science class.
It's all about the storytelling and the technology.

Art
The skill of **storytelling**. How to voice commercials, animation and narration. It's where almost all other voice over classes stop.

Commerce
The **business** of the business. How to attract customers, how to show them your wares, how to fill their needs, and how to price and collect your fees.

Science
The **technology, tools and digital skills** needed to create and sustain your voice over practice. The science is always changing.

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Here's the plan for class.

- Introduction**
Auditioning with Audacity, why it's important that you be agile and expert at auditioning.
- Lesson 01**
Assembling the assets and tools you need to successfully audition with Audacity.
- Lesson 02**
Voiceing and editing raw tracks, recording well and accelerating your auditioning process.
- Lesson 03**
Mastering and delivering your auditions, plus a video demonstration of how to do it all.
- 3 Or More Things To Explore**
Your homework and other actionable items.
- Questions and Answers**
Save your questions until the end, then fire away.

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Introduction
Why it's important to be agile and expert with Audacity.

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Why learn how to audition with Audacity?
Audacity makes you a better VO artist. Here are three reasons why.

- It saves you time:**
By the time you're ready to click on the record button, Audacity's ready as well. No booting up.
- It saves you space:**
It takes up very little room on your hard drive, which leaves you more room for audio.
- It saves you money:**
Audacity is absolutely free. No cost whatsoever. It's open source and it's supported by hundreds of developers.

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" Audacity is no better or worse at recording sound than is ProTools, Audition, or any other software. "

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Lesson 01

Assembling your assets, software and hardware.


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Assemble your assets.

Gather the materials, hardware and software you'll need.


Script
in PDF format


Microphone
The AT-2020 USB Plus



Sound software
Audacity


MP3 plugin
LAME


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Where to get the AT-2020 USB Plus mic:

<http://vo2gogo.com/get-at2020usbplus>


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Where to get Audacity:

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Where to get LAME:


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“ Make sure the AT2020 is selected as both your output and input, and that you're recording in mono. ”


The screenshot shows the Audacity Preferences - Devices window. The 'Recording' section is expanded, showing 'Device: AT2020USB+' selected. The 'Playback' section is also expanded, showing 'Device: AT2020USB+' selected. The 'Channels' dropdown is set to '1 (Mono)'. Arrows point to these three settings.


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“ Plug the AT2020 in before you launch Audacity. If not, select Transport >> Rescan Audio Devices. ”



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Use Single Page Continuous Mode...
...when reading from your script in Preview or any other PDF reader



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AUDITION WITH AUDACITY

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Keep your window narrow...
...you'll make fewer mistakes when reading.




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AUDITION WITH AUDACITY

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Read copy right from the screen
...no need to print it out. Perform it right from Gmail.



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Lesson 02

Voicing, editing and accelerating your process.

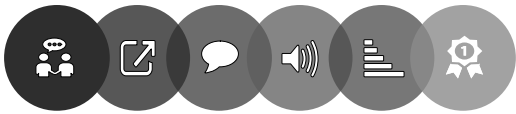
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AUDITION WITH AUDACITY

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6 Steps to Voicing in Audacity

What to do for each audition you create.



- 01** Analyze your script, make bold choices
- 02** Launch Audacity, position script behind (or switch - Audacity still records in BG)
- 03** Slate with a friendly voice, and "into" character voices
- 04** Perform until you make an error, then hit STOP, FF then RECORD
- 05** When finished, edit backwards through the stairsteps.
- 06** Get to the right read quickly.

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Editing Raw Tracks in Audacity
5 steps to working quickly, cleanly and with almost no chance of errors

- Work Backwards**
Move from right to left, end to beginning, when editing the project. Much faster than left to right.
- Highlight Pickup**
Dragging from right to left, select from the end of the last word to the first word in the final pickup.
- Copy and Paste**
Copy your selection, then paste over the mistake that's in the track above and to the left of your pickup.
- Extend the selection**
Once your pickup is pasted over the mistake, extend your selection to the left of THAT audio, and repeat the process.
- Repeat until done**
Copy, paste, extend. Copy, paste, extend. The top track will be your finished audio.

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Recording and Editing Raw Tracks – Video Demo
Here's how a sample audition might be recorded and edited.

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Lesson 03
Mastering, submission and client/project management.

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Normalizing and Exporting MP3s in Audacity
5 steps to making your audio sound and appear professional

- Highlight Audition**
On top track, highlight from just to the left of your slate to about 1/4 inch to the right of the end of your audition.
- Normalize**
Choose **Normalize** from the **Tracks** menu, limiting your level to -3.0 dB.
- Export Selection**
Choose **Export Selected Audio** (or **Export Selections**) from the File menu. Do NOT choose **Export Audio**.
- Set Format, Bitrate**
Choose **MP3** as your file format. Click the **Options** button and choose **128 kbps**.
- Name and export**
Name your file with useful information, and save it in your Auditions folder.

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Normalizing and Exporting MP3s– Video Demo
Here's our sample audition should be mastered.

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Keep your stuff organized.
Create systems that let you save things faster, find things easier and get your work done sooner.

- Filename consistency**
NAME-CLIENT-ROLE.mp3 or NAME-DATE-CLIENT-ROLE.MP3 Or whatever's asked for by client
- Use the last filename**
When saving, clicking once on an existing filename will populate the current filename's last box.
- Stay organized**
Create and follow a hierarchical list of clients, being careful to place files properly.
- Only send MP3s**
Never send WAV files or any other file format, like AAC off your iPhone.


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Delivery to the client.
Things to make sure you take care of. Depending upon the client.

Casting sites?
Upload them to the correct project, and listen before submission.

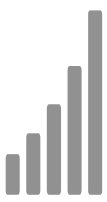
Email requests?
Attach MP3 to reply, email and ask for confirmation of receipt and playback.



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Lather, rinse, repeat: iterate your process.
Use these four tips to get better and better and better.



01 Efficiency
You may have many auditions in one day, so make your system efficient...

02 Breathing room
...and leave more time for making your auditions great.


03 No Frankensteins
Try to limit yourself to just a few takes – no Frankensteining together an audition

04 Enjoy the process
Keep it fun, and remember that VO requires little heavy lifting – enjoy the process

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AUDITION WITH AUDACITY

3 Or More Things To Explore
Your homework and other actionable items.



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3 or more things to explore.
Take what you've learned, explore and learn more, then put that all to work.

- + **Get all of your gear and software together.**
- + **Practice the stairstep editing method until it's second nature.**
- + **Use copy from the class notes to create one or more edited auditions.**
- + **Normalize and export the MP3 file, and listen to the results.**

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Questions
Fire away. Or send them to david@vo2gogo.com.



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Pick a clip to record.

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