

Recording for ACX with Audacity – Part 2 Class Notes

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presents
Recording for ACX With Audacity - Part 2
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This is an Art, Commerce and Science class.
This class covers all three disciplines. We're going to voice audiobooks, edit them, then manage RHs.

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
Why using Audacity to edit ACX recordings is essential.

Lesson 01
Editing your recorded chapters in Audacity.

Lesson 02
Mastering and uploading your chapters to ACX.

Lesson 03
Revisions, pickups and approvals from RHs and ACX.

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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Class Notes

Introduction
Why using Audacity to edit ACX recordings is essential.

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Why Audacity for editing chapters?
Audacity makes you a faster and better audiobook narrator. Here are three reasons why.

- +** **Audacity arranges your work.**
So you screwed up a dozen times. Or a hundred. Easy peasy lemon squeezy to fix all that.
- +** **Audacity is the easiest app in which to edit raw voice tracks.**
8 steps for ProTools to complete one track edit, versus 2 steps for Audacity.
- +** **Audacity also handles final file creation with ease.**
Once you've edited and mastered your audio, Audacity creates exactly the file ACX expects.

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“
This process has two halves: recording and editing. This class covers the second half: editing.
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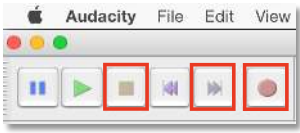
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Lesson 01
Editing your recorded chapters in Audacity.


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RECAP: Record. Goof. Hit STOP, FF, REC. Pick it up.


This is the button click pattern to do pickups when recording



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RECAP: Audacity will start a new recording below and to the right of your current track.




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“ Now, it's time to edit. We'll be copying and pasting the good takes over the mistakes, ending up with the final finished top track. ”



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Creating a master top track for ACX 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 starts 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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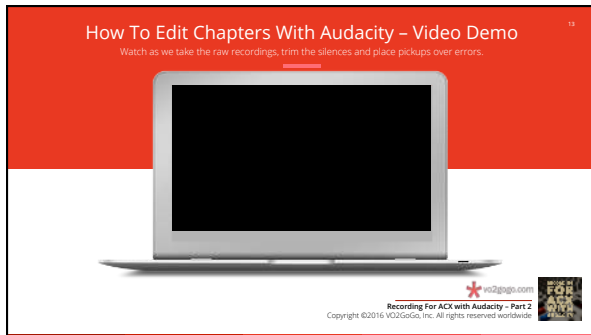


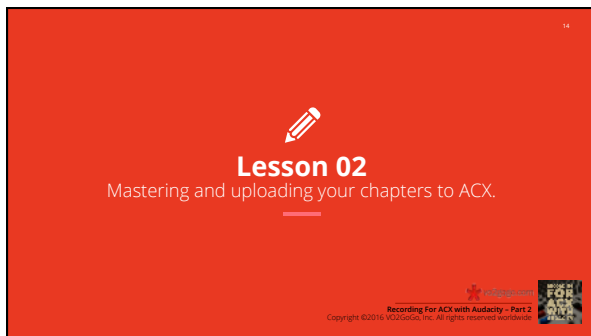
While you're editing, trim the silences to exact lengths.

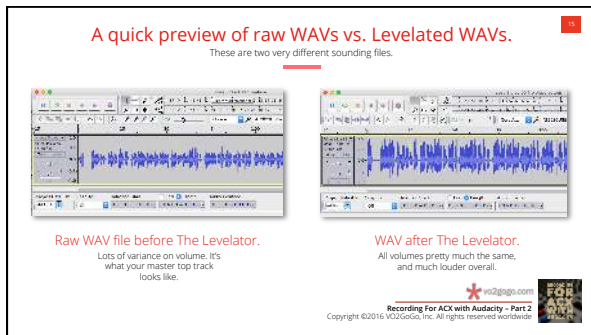
Half a second (.5) at the start of each chapter. **2.5 seconds** between the title and the body. **3.5 seconds** at the end.

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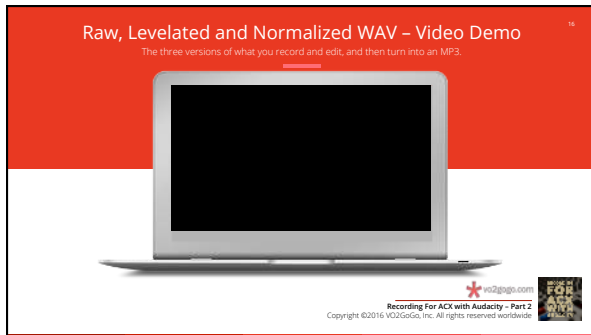
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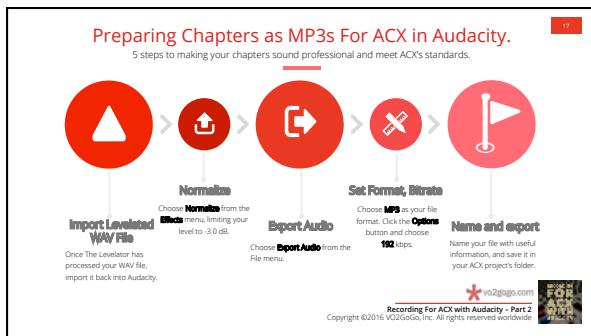


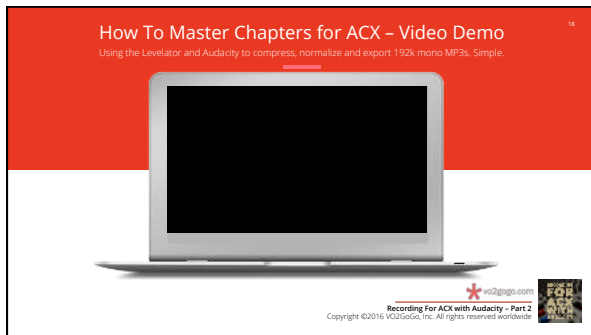




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The screenshot shows the Audacity ACX production interface. At the top, it displays the title 'Secrets of Screen Acting' and a status of 'Available for Sale'. Below this, there's a table with columns for 'ADDITIONAL TITLE', 'PRODUCTION ID', and 'AUDIOBOOK ID'. The table lists a 'Full Production' and four chapters. A red callout box on the right contains the text: 'You'll then upload that MP3 file to the PRODUCE AUDIOBOOK tab of your project.'

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The infographic features a tree with red leaves, each containing an icon representing a tip. The tips are: 'Use consistent filenames' (with a folder icon), 'Save the raw WAV' (with a WAV icon), 'Only upload MP3s' (with a MP3 icon), and 'Stay organized' (with a folder icon). The text explains that creating systems saves time and that users should use consistent naming, save raw WAV files for pickups, only upload MP3s, and maintain a hierarchical folder structure.

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The slide has a red background with a pencil icon at the top. The text reads: 'Lesson 03 Revisions, pickups, and approvals, from RHs and ACX.'

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Once you click "I'm Done," you aren't, really.
Things to prepare for and to correct: pickups and tech corrections.

You probably will have pickups
Your rights holder will (hopefully) provide you with quick feedback and pickups.


You may have technical corrections
ACX may judge your audio as needing adjustment. Hopefully not.



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Don't proof your own work after mastering: you'll miss the same things you missed when you narrated. Let the RH proof your work.
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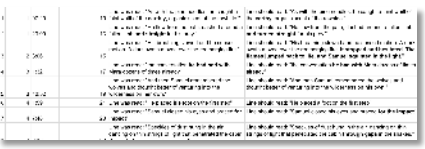
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How To Create An ACX Pickup Tracking Sheet – Video Demo
Use Google Sheets to create a collaborative document that both you and the Rights Holder can access.



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Push your Rights Holder to review quickly.

They should be listening for errors in words as well as performance
Then you pickup and correct those errors.


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How To Perform Pickups For ACX – Video Demo

In almost every project, there's going to be something you miss. Here's how to pick those masses up.



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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.

- + **Trim your recordings and edit out your mistakes.**
- + **Master your recordings to ACX's standards using Levelator.**
- + **Export 192k mono edited, Levelator-ed, -3.0 db normalized MP3 files.**
- + **Build a Google Sheet to help your NIs organize your pickups.**

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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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