

Mastering Home VO Gear

Class Notes


vo2gogo.com
presents

Mastering Home VO Gear

Created by David H. Lawrence XVII


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Remember: Three keys to a successful VO practice
Art, commerce and science




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 assets, 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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...and this is a Science class.
It's all about the technology.



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**
Mastering Home VO Gear: why it's important that you get the right equipment, and that you don't overspend.
- Lesson 01**
Assembling your assets, software and hardware.
- Lesson 02**
Alternatives to our suggested home gear.
- Lesson 03**
Placing your home studio, or having someone install it.
- 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

Goal: get the right gear, and don't overspend.

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Why only \$200 for everything?
There's no need to overspend on equipment. Here are three reasons why.


-  **✓ These items are high quality:**
You should always get high quality, no matter what you pay.
-  **✓ The gear is easily transportable:**
On vacation? Business? Visiting the family? Your gear breaks down and sets up in minutes.
-  **✓ Much of this package is free:**
The software is free, the MP3 plugin is free, the audiobook mastering software is free. Everything else is inexpensive.

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Lesson 01



Assembling your assets, software and hardware.

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“ Any Mac will do, but the 2015 Macbook is best. Why? **No fan** which means no **noise** ”





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“ Any PC will do, whether it's Windows XP, 7, 8, Vista or Windows 10. ”

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How to provision your computer.

Two things to pay for.

Get the most RAM you can
3 to 8 gigabytes means more room to run more apps and data at one time.

Get the largest hard drive you can
500 gigabytes to 2 terabytes means lots of space for auditions and work, especially audiobooks.



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Assemble your assets.

Gather the sound gear, hardware and software you'll need.



Mic stand On Stage Desktop Microphone The AT-2020 USB Plus Earbuds Sony MDREX10LP MP3 plugin LAME Sound software Audacity Mastering plugin The Levitator

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Where to get the On Stage Desktop Mic Stand:

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

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Where to get the AT-2020 USB Plus mic:


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

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Admonition: Only the AT-2020 USB Plus.
No Snowballs, no Yetis. Four reasons that you should buy this USB mic, and only this USB mic.



- 01 Proper A-D converter**
The analog-to-digital converter is the same one used by ProTools.
- 02 Headphone jack**
Lets you monitor in real-time, saving you unnecessary replays.
- 03 Volume control**
Set your volume to a comfortable level, and never have to change it.
- 04 Balance control**
Instantly compare what you've recorded with what you hear played back.

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Where to get the Sony MDREX10LP \$10 earbuds:

<http://vo2gogo.com/get-sony10dollarearbuds>

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Where to get LAME:

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

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“ Install **LAME** first, then **Audacity**. LAME will install itself where Audacity can then find it. ”




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Downloading and Installing LAME - Video Demo



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Where to get Audacity:

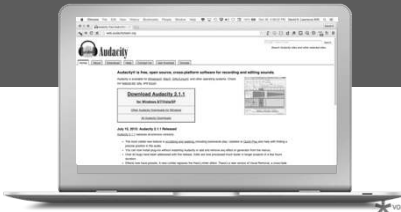
<http://vo2gogo.com/get-audacity>

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Downloading and Installing Audacity – Video Demo



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Where to get The Levelator:

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

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“ Oh, and don't overspend on a foam pop filter. A one dollar ankle-length athletic sock will do just fine. ”

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“ Check your Audacity preferences: Is LAME installed? Is the proper mic and channels selected? ”



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Checking Audacity's Settings – Video Demo



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Lesson 02

Alternatives to our suggested home gear.

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On the road, in a pinch: Rehearsal@ Pro

Four reasons this app is a good thing to have in your pocket.

Useful in your practice

Rehearsal is used for on-camera as well as VO acting.

Email from the app


Once you record your audition, you can email it right to the requester from Rehearsal itself.

Record MP3 files

Rehearsal is the only app available that exports recordings as MP3s, not AACs.

\$20. Cheap.

Rehearsal Pro is yours for a one-time payment of \$20. Less than a workshop, less than headphones.



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Sidetrp: Why Rehearsal@ Pro?

So, what makes this a useful alternative?

- ✓ Useful in all areas of your acting practice
- ✓ Records and emails in MP3 Format, not AAC
- ✓ Email your auditions right from the app
- ✓ Inexpensive – \$20 one-time payment

Highlight your lines


Using your finger, just like you would with an actual highlighter, and in any color you prefer.

Record your scenes

Then, play them back over and over until you learn them cold. Be off book, book more work.

Add photos and video


Add side notes to your rehearsal process, try things, different ways, then make bold choices.



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“ To connect the AT2020 to your iPhone or iPad, use the Apple Camera Connection Kit. ”



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ProTools is not necessary. Really.

It's cumbersome. It's got a huge learning curve. It's expensive. And it slows you down.



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Lesson 03




Placing your home studio, or having someone install it.


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Where to place your in-home studio.

From OK to excellent.

		
Good Any room that is relatively quiet at least some of the time.	Better A bedroom, den or library - any room with irregular surfaces	Best A walk-in closet. Don't remove the clothes

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Where to record on the road.

Cars and hotel rooms.

	
In your car In parking areas, garages, lots and carports, away from traffic.	In your hotel room Grab the blanket and throw it over you and your equipment.

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And what if you want someone to install it for you?


We've got you covered. And if you're a Pro, it's even less expensive.

We show up with all the equipment.
You get the AT-2020 USB Plus mic, the desktop mic stand, Sony earbuds, and we download the latest versions of Audacity, LAME and Levelator.

We install everything, then train you.
From unboxing the gear and showing you how it all fits together, to installing all the software, we show you how it all works.

We monitor your work for quality.
Send us samples over the first two weeks, and we'll let you know what we think of the sound, and tell you how to make it better.



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Choose the right chair to sit on.

Since you're going to be sitting for most of your VO work, make your chair simple and spectacular.


	
Looks great, not so good. Not only is this chair expensive, it's complicated and eventually will squeak.	Looks simple, is spectacular. It's welded together to be one solid piece. That means no squeaking. Add a cushion.


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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.

- + **Get your gear together if you haven't already.**
- + **Choose the best area in your home to place your studio. And...try your car.**
- + **Install your gear and make sure it all works correctly.**
- + **Balance your mic video at <http://vo2gogo.com/af2020-balance>**

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Questions

Fire away. Send them to

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Pick a clip. Record. Send.

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Take the final. Then take a break.

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