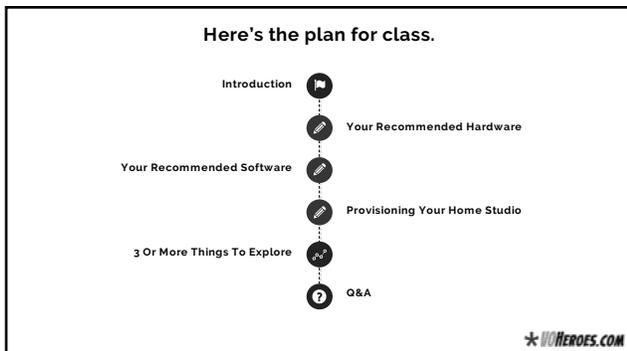
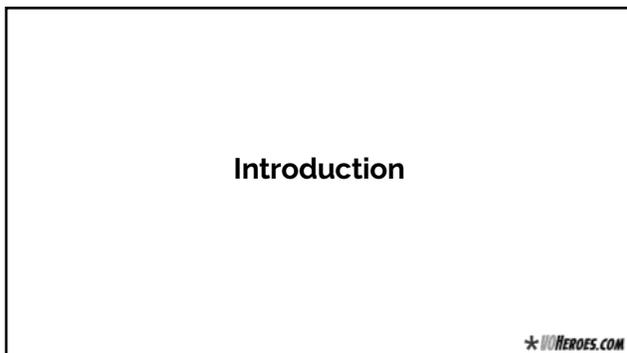




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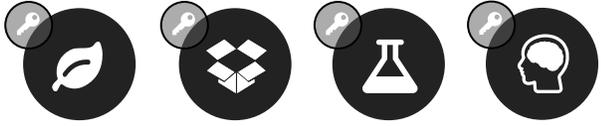


2



3

Reminder: The four keys to a successful VO practice



Art Commerce Science Mindset

★ VOHEROES.COM

4

And this is a Science course.



Art Commerce Science Mindset

★ VOHEROES.COM

5

Be sure to download your clips and slides

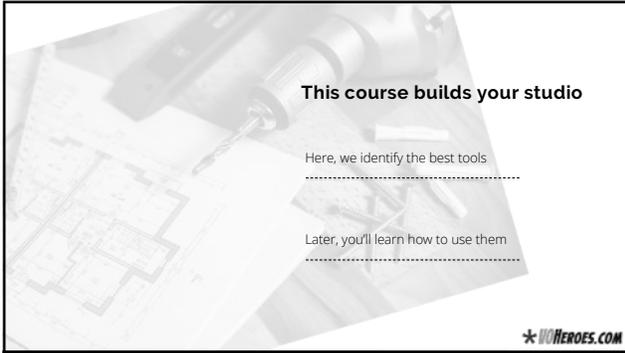


- Click here to download a PDF of this class's clips PDF
- Click here to download a PDF of this class's slides PDF

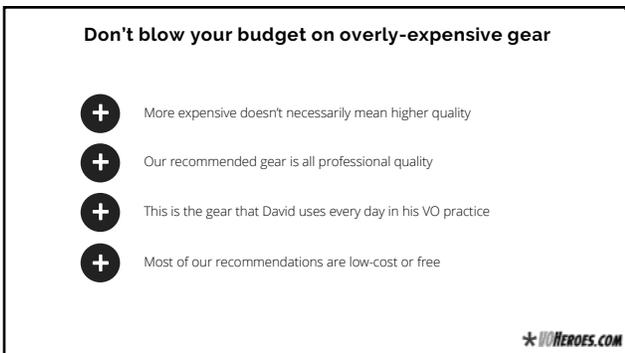
The **Materials** link is on the main page of this course, just under the header, next to the **Course** summary link.

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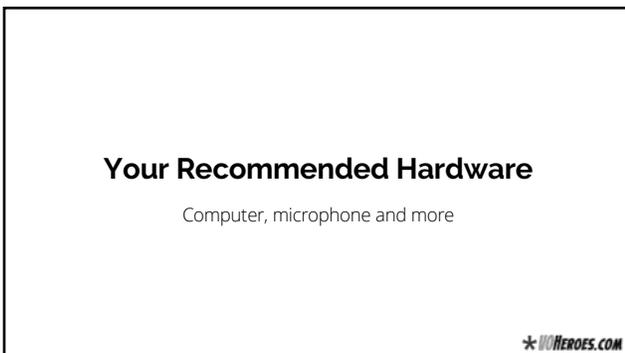
6



7



8



9



Recommended VO Computer

The computer you have will work, but these are the best

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10



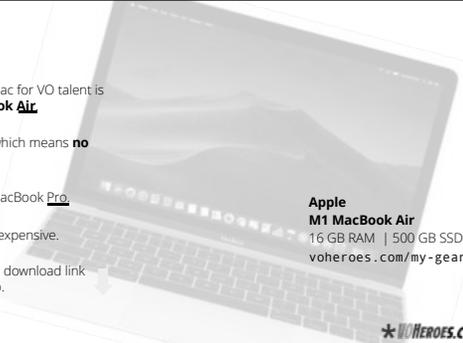
The very best Mac for VO talent is the **M1 MacBook Air**.

Why? **No fan**, which means **no noise**.

Don't buy the MacBook Pro.

It's much more expensive.

You'll find a safe download link below this video.



Apple
M1 MacBook Air
16 GB RAM | 500 GB SSD
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

11



If you use a Mac with a fan, **locate it outside your recording area**. The fan noise will be minimal.

Use a **wireless keyboard** and **wireless mouse/trackball**.

Any monitor will do. Use a long cable.

You'll find safe download links below this video.



Apple
M1 Mac Mini
16 GB RAM | 500 GB SSD
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

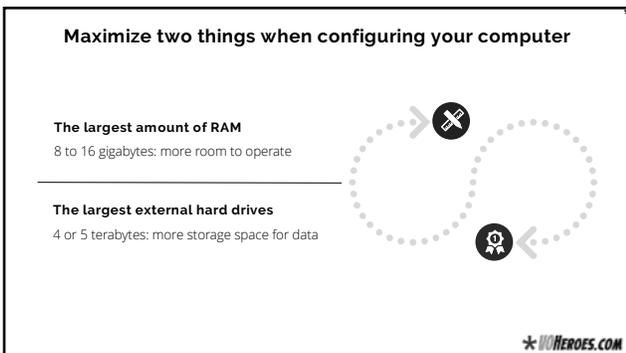
12



13



14



15

Powered USB Hub

So you can connect everything together



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16

You'll need a powered hub.

There are usually only one or two USB ports on laptops. You'll have more things to plug in than you have ports:

- ✓ External hard drives
- ✓ Microphone
- ✓ Mouse
- ✓ Webcam
- ✓ Printer/Scanner
- ✓ Etc.

You'll find a safe purchase link below.

Anker USB powered hub
10-port
voheroes.com/my-gear



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17



The best connection to the Internet

Ethernet, not Wi-Fi

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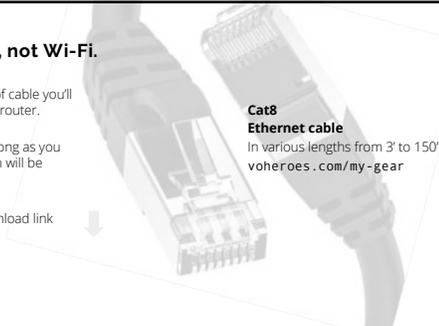
18

Use Ethernet, not Wi-Fi.

Ethernet is the type of cable you'll use to plug into your router.

The cable can be as long as you need. The connection will be rock-solid.

You'll find a safe download link below this video.



Cat8 Ethernet cable
In various lengths from 3' to 150'
voheroes.com/my-gear

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19

Then plug into your hub.

To connect your computer to your router, you'll need an **Ethernet to USB adapter**. That adapter will plug into your **powered USB hub**.

You'll find a safe download link below this video.



Cable Creations Ethernet-to-USB adapter
Compatible with Mac and Windows
voheroes.com/my-gear

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20

[VIDEO]

How to Connect Your Computer to the Internet via Ethernet Instead of Wi-Fi

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21

External Hard Drives

Two separate uses for the same devices



22

#1: used for storage of data...

Most computers come with smallish **internal** drives. Use those to **run your apps only**.

Then, **write** and **store** your data on portable **external** hard drives.

You'll find a safe purchase link below this video.

**Western Digital
My Passport external hard drive
4 terabytes (4 TB)
voheroes.com/my-gear**



23

...also used for backup of data/apps

Backing up your data is essential.

There are two types of VO artists in the world: those that have cried over lost data...

...and those who are destined to someday cry over lost data.

You'll need more than one.

**Western Digital
My Passport external hard drive
5 terabyte (5 TB)
voheroes.com/my-gear**



24



Microphone stand(s)

★ VOHEROES.COM

25



A desktop microphone stand...

Cheap and effective, and easily moved to the side. Any standard microphone stand will work.

You'll find a safe link to purchase this (should you need another mic stand) below. ↓

OnStage Desktop Mic Stand
Cast iron base, adjustable
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

26

...or a floor microphone stand...

Also fairly cheap and effective, and easily swung out of the way. Again, any standard microphone stand will work.

Safe purchase link below this video. ↓



OnStage Floor Mic Stand
3-leg base, adjustable boom
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

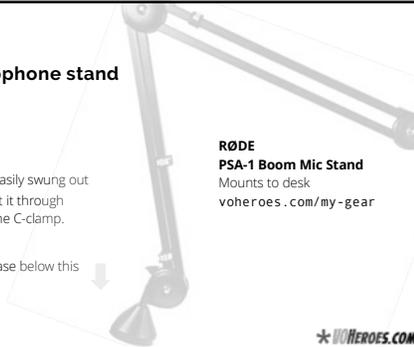
27

...or a boom microphone stand

Just like radio stations do it.

More expensive, and also easily swung out of the way. It's better to bolt it through your desktop than to use the C-clamp.

There's a safe link to purchase below this video.



RØDE
PSA-1 Boom Mic Stand
Mounts to desk
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

28



Studio Microphone

★ VOHEROES.COM

29

Microphone

Yes, it's a USB mic. But a bit of a unicorn – not one of *those* USB mics. It's what I use every day...

Replaces a studio mic/interface combo. The **interface** is in the **bottom of the mic**. It's that simple.

You'll find a safe purchase link below (if you need another mic).



AudioTechnica
AT-2020 USB Plus
Includes USB cable
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

30

Stopping the popping.

No need for a foam ball or a nylon ring.

Our **Mike Sock** stops pops, lessens sibilance and will let you get closer to your mic for intimate luxury reads.

Safe purchase link below (should you need another).

VOHeroes
The Mike Sock
100% cashmere/wool blend
voheroes.com/my-gear



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31

We'll dive deeper in another course.

We have a whole course in the VOHeroes curriculum coming up, dedicated to becoming expert at setting up and using your microphone.

It's called **Mastering Microphone Technique**.



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32

Monitoring your sound

* VOHEROES.COM

33

Earbuds...

Inexpensive, high quality, very lightweight and soft rubber tips that fit comfortably in your ears.

What I prefer to use.

Safe link for purchasing (if you need another pair) below



Panasonic RP-HJE120 Earbuds
1/8" miniplug, fits AT-2020
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

34



...or headphones

Expensive compared to earbuds, high quality, somewhat heavy on your head and for long form work can be uncomfortable.

What I used to use.

Safe link to purchase below.

Sony MDR-7506 Headphones
1/8" miniplug, fits AT-2020
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

35



Do you need speakers?

Probably not.

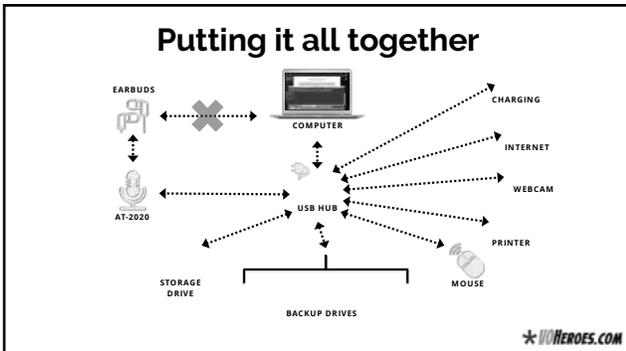
Earbuds or headphones will do just fine.

★ VOHEROES.COM

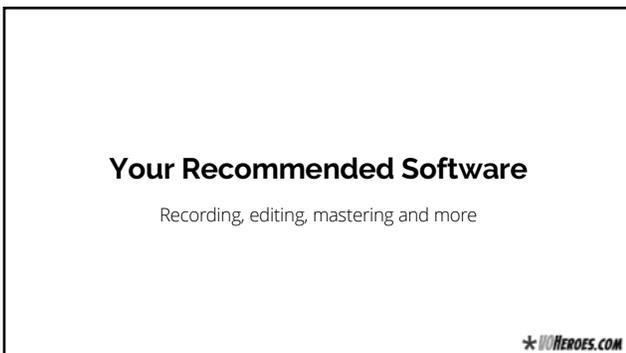
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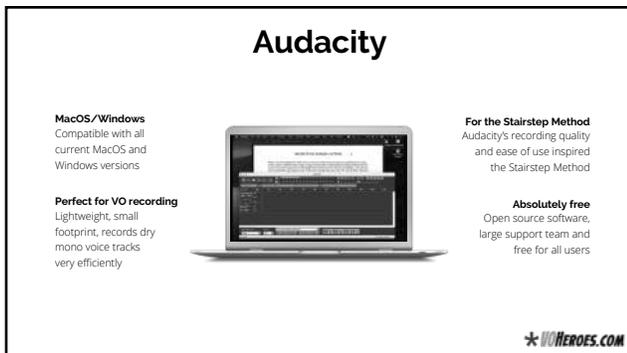
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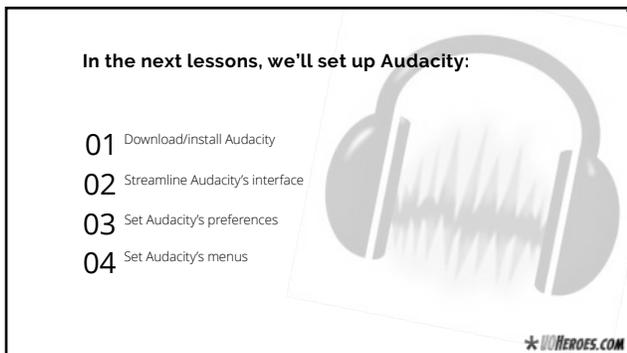
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[VIDEO]
**10: Downloading and Installing
Audacity**

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43

[VIDEO]
11: Streamlining Audacity's Interface

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44

[VIDEO]
12: Set Audacity's Preferences

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45

[VIDEO]
13: Set Audacity's Menus

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46



Mastering Software

For audiobooks and podcasts only

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47

AudioCupcake

MacOS (only)

Compatible with all current MacOS versions

Drag and Drop

Drag your edited WAV file onto the app and let it do its magic



Beautiful mastering

RMS set to -21 db, peak to -3.0 dB

Outputs a final MP3

192k mono, ready to upload to ACX

★ VOHEROES.COM

48

Using AudioCupcake speeds up your process

Drag and drop your raw WAV
You can drag more than one file

Upload the finished MP3
Ready for ACX or your podcast platform



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Alternative: The Levelator

Free, versions for MacOS or Windows. Compatible with both 32-bit and 64-bit OSes.

Requires additional steps using Audacity to create final MP3 file for audiobooks and podcasts.



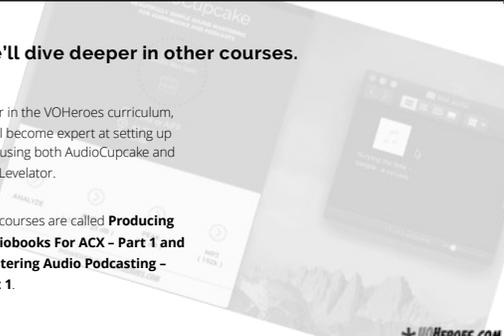
*** VOHEROES.COM**

50

We'll dive deeper in other courses.

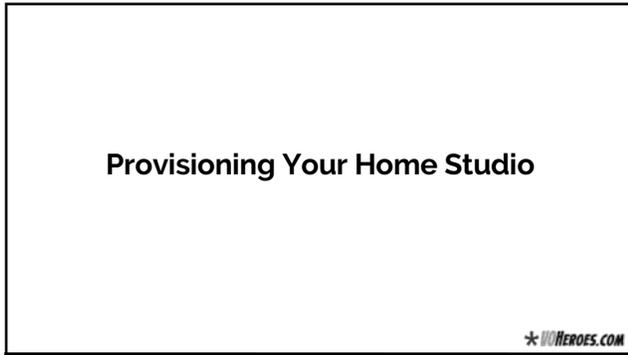
Later in the VOHeroes curriculum, you'll become expert at setting up and using both AudioCupcake and The Levelator.

The courses are called **Producing Audiobooks For ACX - Part 1** and **Mastering Audio Podcasting - Part 1**.

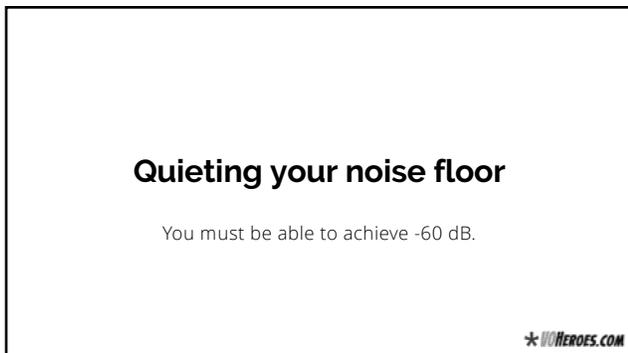


*** VOHEROES.COM**

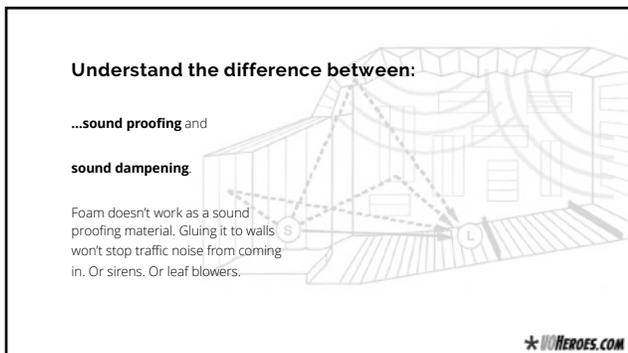
51



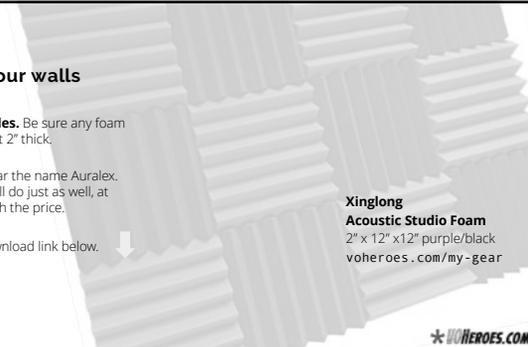
52



53



54



For your walls

Foam tiles. Be sure any foam is at least 2" thick.

You'll hear the name Auralex. These will do just as well, at one-tenth the price.

Safe download link below. ↓

Xinglong Acoustic Studio Foam
2" x 12" x12" purple/black
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

55



Also for your walls

You can also use **moving blankets**.

The thicker the better.

Safe download link below. ↓

Nova Heavy-Duty Moving Blankets
Polyester over cotton batting
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

56



For your doors

Doing double duty is the **door draft stopper**.

It seals one of the biggest sound leaks in any room.

Safe download link below. ↓

ClauCiel Under Door Draft Stopper
Fits any door 25" - 35"
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

57

voheroes.com/caroline

One of your fellow VOHeroes Pros, and a virtuoso with moving blankets and cup hooks.

She built a recording space in the middle of a guest room.

She says, "If I can build a DIY home studio, so can you."

Clickable link to her article below.



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58

Where to record in your home

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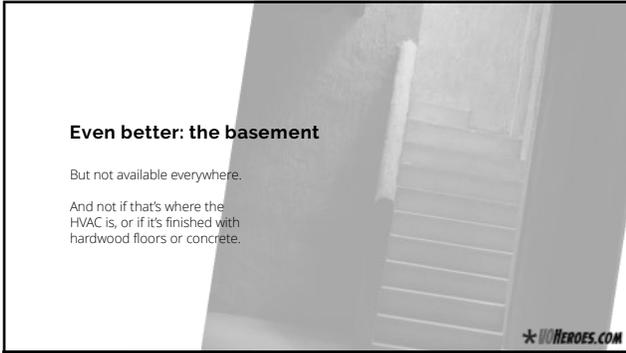
59

Which room is best for your in-home studio?

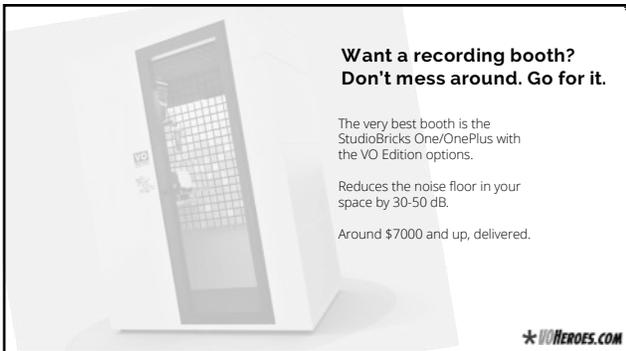
		
Meh Any room you think is relatively quiet at least some of the time.	Usable A bedroom, den or library - any room with irregular surfaces.	Better A walk-in closet. Don't remove the clothes.

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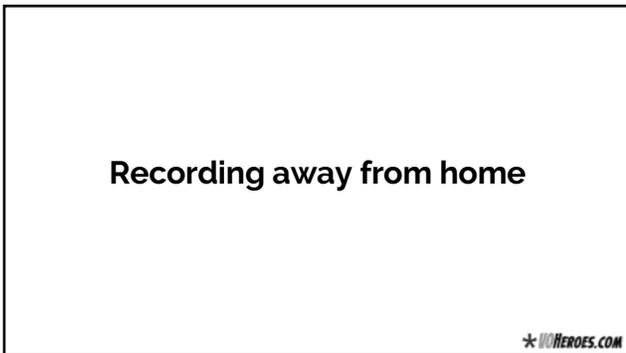
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62

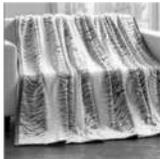


63

When you need to audition on the road



In your car
In parking areas, garages, lots and carpools, away from traffic.



In your hotel room
Grab a bedspread and throw it over you and your equipment.



64

On the road, for auditions in a pinch: Rehearsal® Pro

For your entire practice
Rehearsal is used for on-camera as well as VO acting.

Records MP3 files
Rehearsal® Pro is the only app available that exports recordings as MP3s, not M4As.



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

\$20. Cheap.
Of course, it's yours for free if you're a VOHeroes Pro.



65



66



Accessories that make things easier

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67



Wireless keyboard

It comes to life (lights up) when you hover your fingers over it, and features USB charging (yay! no batteries).

Perfect for laptops on a stand.
Can serve up to 3 devices at once.

Safe link for purchasing below. ↓

Logitech
K811 Wireless Keyboard
Pairs via bluetooth
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

68



Wireless mouse

Quiet, precise, light, long battery life, programmable buttons and adjustable scrolling speed.

Vastly reduces wrist and hand pain.

Safe link for purchasing below. ↓

Logitech
M570 Trackball
Connects via USB receiver
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

69

Personal air conditioning

It cools down a room the size of a booth by 20 degrees in 30 seconds. Use it when not narrating.

It uses evaporative cooling, so no ductwork is needed.

Safe link for purchasing below. ↓



**Evapolar
EvaSMART EV 3000**
Fills with tap water
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

70

The problem with sexy office chairs: noise



Looks awesome.
Not so good, and really expensive.



Looks uncomfortable.
Add a cushion, and it's perfect.

★ VOHEROES.COM

71



Your chair

One piece welded steel construction means no joints to loosen and squeak.

Add your favorite cushion.

Safe link for purchasing below. ↓

**Flash Furniture
Commercial Metal Chair**
Indoor/outdoor, one-piece construction
voheroes.com/my-gear

★ VOHEROES.COM

72

Your cup holder (no kidding)

Spring loaded clip slides onto your desk surface.

All it takes is one spilled sugary or creamy drink to understand why this is so valuable.

Safe link for purchasing below. ↓

HISTORY
Drinking Cup Holder Clip
Has slot for cup handle
voheroes.com/my-gear



★ VOHEROES.COM

73

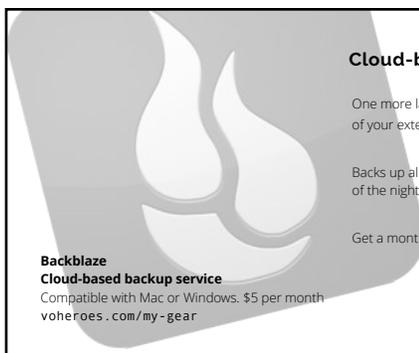
Cloud-based backup

One more layer of protection on top of your external backup hard drives.

Backs up all your data in the middle of the night, over the Internet.

Get a month free with the link below. ↓

Backblaze
Cloud-based backup service
Compatible with Mac or Windows. \$5 per month
voheroes.com/my-gear



★ VOHEROES.COM

74

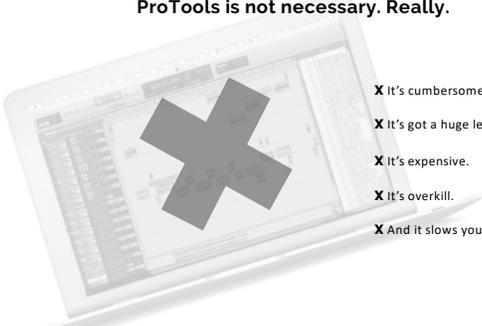
✘

What's not really necessary

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75

ProTools is not necessary. Really.



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

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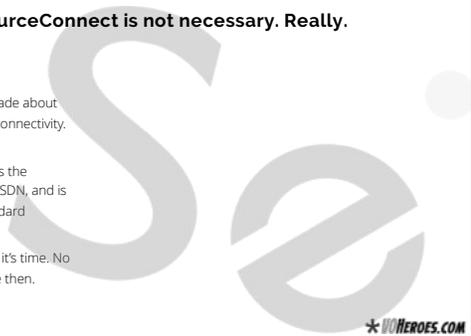
76

SourceConnect is not necessary. Really.

A lot has been made about studio to studio connectivity.

Source Connect is the replacement for ISDN, and is the industry standard

You'll know when it's time. No need for it before then.



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77

A ridiculously expensive mic is not necessary. Really.



The Neumann U87

Likely way too sensitive for the space you're recording in. Unless you have a StudioBricks or equivalent.

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78



3 Or More Things To Explore

Your homework and other actionable items.

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79

Create a studio to record in that you can rely on

- ⊕ Assemble your gear and make sure it all works correctly
- ⊕ Choose the best area in your home to place your studio
- ⊕ Do everything you can to quiet your noise floor to below -60 dB
- ⊕ Don't waste money on things you don't need

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Questions?

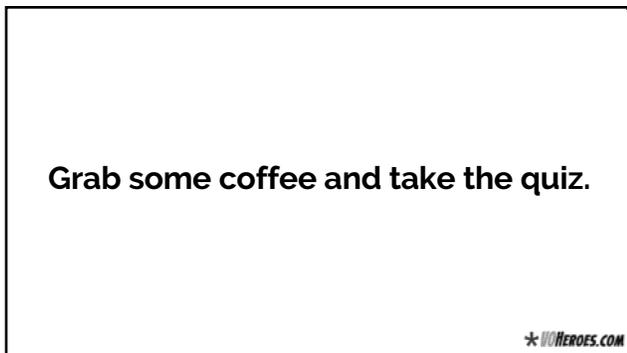
Post in the ProConnect discussion group

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