



your voice, ONLINE



Tips and Techniques for Audiobook Recording

- ☐ Please make sure you are recording in .WAV or .BWF file format. This is important to set for when you are capturing audio — do not convert the file format after recording.
- ☐ Ideally, record at a sample rate of 44.1 kHz with a bit depth of 24.
- ☐ Make sure you are recording in a quiet place free from extraneous noise (including computer fans). Use an iPad or digital tablet instead of paper to reduce noise when turning pages.
- ☐ Measure your audio levels to be between -23dB and -18dB if possible. You do not want to be too loud, which may clip or distort the audio. Have peaks at -3dB.
- ☐ Each chapter or section of the book, (i.e. introduction, acknowledgments, etc.) needs to be separate audio files. Listen to other audiobooks for examples. You need a specific intro and conclusion file.
- ☐ When recording, try to stay as close to the mic as possible. Even if you have a good pop filter or wind screen it is good practice to read at roughly a 45 degree angle off your mic. This allows for plosives from “p” or “b” sounds in particular to pass by the mic without effecting the audio in a negative manner.
- ☐ Try to listen to yourself as you record with headphones on. This helps you hear plosives, breath sounds, or even if you are getting farther away from your mic and audio is starting to trail off.
- ☐ Try to be conscious of your energy level and rhythm or pace at which you read. Try to stay consistent unless the content determines otherwise.
- ☐ If you are recording with a device that gives you edit marker capabilities, use this function to mark mistakes or points for editing to make them easier to find in post production. This gives a visual marker and can really speed up the process.
- ☐ If you are not recording with a device that gives you edit markers, leave a 5 to 10 second gap (silence and/or clap your hands near your mic creating a spike in the wave form) to make the edits easier to find. Then start the sentence or paragraph over again. Don't get frustrated if you have to do this a few times, and remember to watch your pace and energy level as frustration from mistakes can change both of those.

I hope this helps you get going with great results. If I have described anything you need clarification on, or you are looking for equipment with different functionality (like the edit mark function) and you want help deciding, purchasing, or just weighing your options, I'm happy to help. Feel free to contact me at Bret@podcastconduit.com or call my cell at [702-217-3494](tel:702-217-3494).

— Bret Farmer, PodcastConduit.com