

Podcasting Bundles

Not sure what equipment you need for your podcasting project this semester? This handout will help you match the equipment bundles to your needs.

Podcasting or Professional Quality

To choose the best bundle for your needs, first determine whether you're going for a good "podcast quality" recording, or an excellent, professional quality recording.

- **Podcast Quality** - easy to understand audio recordings, that may have a little bit of low level noise in the background. Podcast quality equipment captures the sounds of your voice that are most essential for communication.
- **Professional Quality** – very clear audio recordings, with very little or no low level noise in the background. Professional quality equipment is better insulated against its own electrical and mechanical noise. It captures a wider range of your speaking voice, making your vocal recording sound "full."

How do I decide?

The main factor in your decision may be the price. Professional Quality recording equipment is much more expensive! If your podcasts are focused solely on timely information that will probably not be used in future semesters, podcast quality equipment is a good option. If, on the other hand, you want to use your podcasts in future semesters, or distribute them to a wide audience, you may want to invest in professional quality recording equipment.

Recording at a desk or recording on the go?

The next thing to consider is whether you will be recording primarily from a desk, or whether you will be recording in various locations and need a small, light, and portable solution.


If you are doing some recording at your desk, and some portable recording, keep in mind that many of the desktop recording solutions can be "semi-portable" if you have a laptop computer, and are willing to carry a bit more equipment around with you.

Podcast Bundles Overview

	Desktop recording (or semi-portably with a laptop)	Portable Recording
Podcast Quality	Bundle 1: Griffin Lapel Microphone	Bundle 4: 30GB iPod/video + mic attachment
Professional Quality	Bundle 2: Blue Snowball USB Microphone Bundle 3: M-Audio Podcast Factory	Bundle 5: M-Audio Microtrack 24/96


Bundle 1: Simple (and inexpensive)

This is the least expensive solution for recording at your desk. The Griffin Lapel Microphone plugs in to the microphone port on your computer. The headphones are optional if you have your own already.

43282	Griffin Lapel Microphone	\$14.99	
43284	Koss UR29 Home Stereophone	\$20.99	

Bundle 2: Enhanced 1 (the best for your desk)

This is an excellent option for recording at your desk. We feel the Snowball USB microphone is easy to set up and use with Audacity. It also features an "omni-directional" setting allowing you to record interviews or small groups effectively with a single microphone. The headphones are optional if you have your own already.

43283	Blue Snowball USB Microphone & Tripod kit Bundle	\$149	
43284	Koss UR29 Home Stereophone	\$20.99	


Bundle 3: Enhanced 2 (for audiophiles and techies)

The Podcast Factory package requires more setup and technical expertise than Snowball microphone. It includes a standard mic input for people that have their own professional microphones. The headphones are optional if you have your own already.

43285	M-Audio Podcast Factory	\$179.95	
43284	Koss UR29 Home Stereophone	\$20.99	

Bundle 4: Portable (for those willing to wait)



When the Belkin Microphone becomes available, this will be a very portable recording solution. Unfortunately, the release date for this microphone is currently unknown, and since it isn't out yet, we haven't been able to test the quality of the recordings. The headphones are optional if you have your own already.

42662 (black) or 42660 (white)	30GB iPod/video	\$269	
xxxxx	Belkin Microphone Adapter (future announcement?)	\$29.99 (?)	
43284	Koss UR29 Home Stereophone	\$20.99	

Bundle 5: Portable and Professional (quality recording wherever you are)

The M-Audio Microtrack is a small and light portable recorder that creates both WAV and MP3 files. It comes with numerous useful accessories, including a small stereo microphone, USB cable, battery charger, earbud headphones, and a 64MB compact flash card. We found it very easy to record files and transfer them to a computer. The recording quality was very good in our tests. If you're recording lectures, a lavalier microphone is a good addition, otherwise, the included microphone works great, particularly for interviews.

Note that some people may want to also purchase a larger compact flash card. The included 64MB card is reported to record about an hour and a half at MP3 (96kbps) quality (which is fine for podcasting) but only about six minutes of CD quality audio, which is important for archival recordings.

43286	M-Audio Microtrack 24/96	\$499.95	
43287	Audio Technica ATR-35S Lavalier Microphone	\$39.95	
43284	Koss UR29 Home Stereophone	\$20.99	