

Audio Recording Equipment Available in the IMC

Students, staff, and faculty of the University at Albany often have the need to record interviews, lectures, and performances. The Interactive Media Center has equipment that can be used to make both “vocal” and musical recordings. This document is an overview of that equipment and includes brief descriptions of the devices.

Most of the equipment is available for loan. You must have a Library account in good standing. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Visit our Web site at <http://library.albany.edu/imc/tools.htm> for the latest equipment list.

Digital Voice Recorder – The Interactive Media Center has several models of digital voice recorders that record in common file formats. These can connect to a computer by USB so that you can transfer the file for editing. The photograph on the right illustrates one such model.

NOTE: Digital voice recorders are very popular at certain times of the semester. You may wish to reserve one in advance. Visit <http://library.albany.edu/imc/contact.htm> for contact information.



Boundary Microphone – These Audio-Technical microphones are intended primarily for interview situations where the participants are seated around a table. This mic has 360° pickup. It must sit flat on a hard surface, such as a table. Objects near it, including books, a mouse pad, or desk supplies, can reduce the performance. The mic has a 1/8” connector and can be used with digital voice recorders, computers, and many other devices. It is powered and comes with a battery.



Handheld Corded Microphone – The IMC has several types of handheld microphones. The photograph on the right shows a typical example. These mics are mainly for public address systems; however, they can be used with the appropriate kind of recording equipment. They each come with cords. Some models have omnidirectional pickups, others are unidirectional. They are not powered, but most have on/off switches.



Wireless Microphones – Both Audio-Technica lavalier (lapel) mics and handheld wireless microphones are available. A “lav” is shown on the right. The receivers will connect to PA systems or computers, although adapters may be necessary.



H2 Zoom Recorder – The H2 Zoom is a pro-level digital recorder that is popular among interviewers, musicians, and others who need a device that will work in many different situations. It features variable pickup so that you can record in a narrow pattern, wide pattern, or 360°. This device comes as a complete kit that includes an adapter allowing it to mount to a microphone stand, a “footer” to make it self-standing, wind sock, and more.



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Shotgun-type Microphone with Camera Mount – This “zoom” microphone is a miniature shotgun-type mic with adjustable pickup. You can select from either a narrow or very narrow pattern. It has a camera mount that allows it to be connected to a camcorder with a microphone or lighting shoe and mic input. One main purpose of this microphone is to record speakers from a distance where a normal microphone, such as those built into a camcorder, would pick up background noise. This device radically reduces unwanted ambient sound. This is a powered mic and comes with a battery.



Telephone Pickup – The TP7 telephone pickup allows the user to record telephone conversations. It is a simple device with a combination earbud and magnetic pickup on one end and a 1/8” connector on the other. The user puts the earbud in the ear with the magnetic pickup facing out, away from the head. The TP7 is connected to a recording device. When a telephone speaker is placed next to the wearer’s ear, the pickup sends a signal to the recorder and allows the user to hear the conversation through the earbud while the recording is being made.



Telephone Recording Kits (not shown) – The IMC has telephone recording kits available for both cell phone and landline use. Once such kit includes a headset with mic. That kit allows the user to connect to a cell phone’s headset jack and to a recording device. The user converses through the headset while the recorder records the conversation.

Marantz Cassette Recorder – This Marantz cassette recorder is pro-quality. It features both manual and automatic level controls, built-in mic, and much more. It has line input and output, microphone input, and telephone input.



Cassette Recorders – The IMC has several different types of “consumer grade” cassette recorders. These include table top models, such as the one shown on the right, and small portable versions. All use standard size cassette tapes. Most have built-in microphones, some have mic inputs.



Additional Accessories and Equipment – The Interactive Media Center has a wide range of accessories and support equipment. For a comprehensive list visit <http://library.albany.edu/imc/tools.htm>. Because the needs of each user vary, you are encouraged to contact the IMC for consultation. You may need assistance selecting the proper adapters, connectors, cables, and other parts to connect machines for data transfer. Please see us for details. Contact information is at <http://library.albany.edu/imc/contact.htm>.

A partial list of the accessories and additional equipment available includes –

- Transcription kits
- Y-adapters
- USB cables
- Firewire cables
- Audio connection adapters
- Boombox with radio and cassette/CD playback
- Record player (not available for loan, but is in the IMC playback area)
- Skype kit
- Microphone floor stand
- Microphone floor stand with boom arm
- Microphone table top stand