
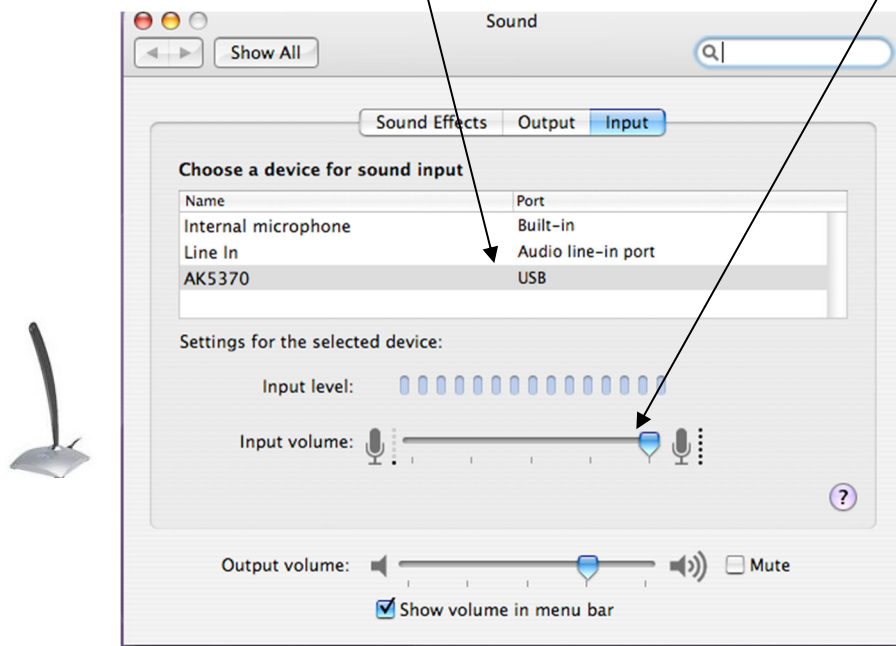


Quick Tips: Using an External Microphone on a Mac

If the Mac has a webcam, the webcam is the default microphone. It is the Built-In Internal Microphone. It is advisable to use an external microphone to improve the quality of the recording and to minimize ambient noise. When using an external microphone, select the microphone in System Preferences and, in most cases, the application. Follow the steps below. A USB microphone is used as an example.

1. Before opening the application, plug the microphone into the Mac and turn it on. If it is a USB microphone, do not use the USB port at the keyboard.
2. Under the Apple menu  select **System Preferences > Sound > Input**. Select the microphone. Below is our example of a **USB microphone**. Slide the **input volume** to adjust the recording volume for the microphone.

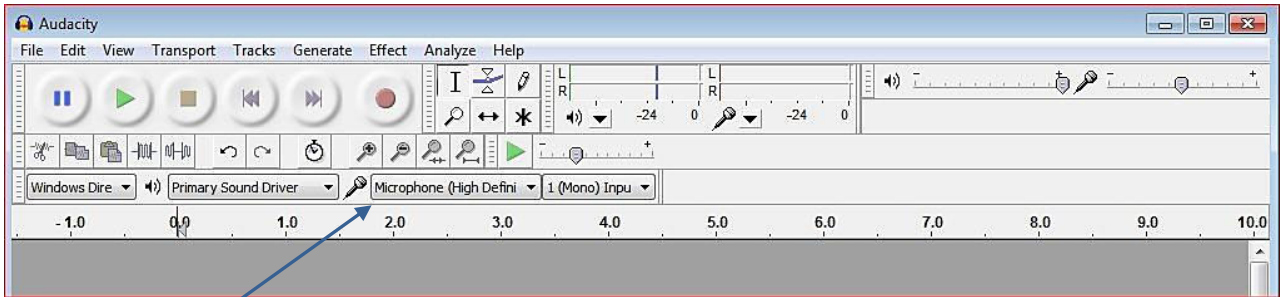


If the Mac does not recognize [record] from the microphone save your project and restart the computer without unplugging or turning off the microphone. Repeat the steps above. See next page for settings in Audacity, iMovie and Final Cut.



Audacity Adjusting Audacity settings for the Microphone

Audacity will likely recognize the correct mic. Review the Input Device and Input channel drop down menus to select the source of the audio. Complete a test recording and adjust levels. Note: if there is no recording, save the project, exit Audacity and re-open the project without unplugging or turning off the USB microphone.



Input Device

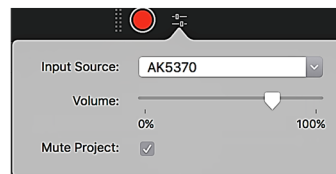


Adjusting iMovie settings to record a voiceover

Select the microphone under the monitor to narrate in  the project



Select the Voiceover Options to select the microphone

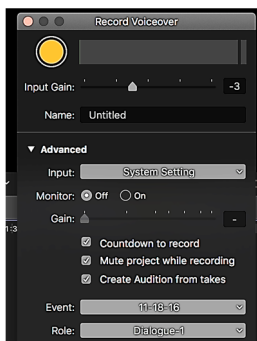


Select the microphone as the Input Source.



Adjusting Final Cut settings to record a voiceover

Select Window > Record Voiceover. Under Advance change Input from System Setting to reflect the microphone.



Written by Heather Bergstraesser, Student Assistant, 12/9/2008; 9/09; updated by Nick Smith Student Assistant; 3/12; updated by Regina Testa, 4/19