

Making a School Radio Programme Using Audacity - Equipment

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The Logitech USB Desktop microphone is a basic and easy-to-use model, available for around £15. I have used it extensively for recording with Audacity and found it as good as microphones costing five times the price. You get far better quality from this than a standard microphone plugged into the mic socket on your computer. I can recommend this for classroom use.

<http://www.logitech.com>

<http://www.ebuyer.com>



If you want to splash out a bit the Samson CO1U or C03U are studio quality USB microphones which offer slightly better sound than the Logitech for around £60—£80 depending on the model. You will need to buy a microphone stand for these microphones though as they are not designed to be hand-held.

<http://www.samsontech.com>

<http://www.dv247.com>



I can also recommend the Sanyo ICR-S250RM and the iRiver T30. The Sanyo has an input for an external microphone which is an advantage when you want to get good quality recordings (built-in mics are often poor quality). The Sanyo is also very easy to use. The iRiver is a bit trickier to use but makes very good recordings from its built-in microphone (but has no socket for an external microphone). After a bit of practice you can get great results. Both cost around £70. Try these websites below for good prices:

<http://www.mp3players.co.uk>

<http://www.speakit.info>



If you are feeling rich and want a pro-quality MP3 recorder the M Audio MicroTrack is a great recorder with CD quality sound. It's easy-to-use too and saves all of your recordings to Compact Flash cards which are relatively cheap to buy. The advantage of this is that if you are out recording in the field and you notice that you are about to run out of memory all you have to do is pop in another compact flash card. It is expensive though at £260.

<http://www.solidstatesound.co.uk>



Audacity is a free piece of audio editing software which turns your PC or Mac into a fully featured editing suite. It can be downloaded from the Audacity website at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>.