

Recording Gear

Audio interface

[Presonos Studio 24c](#) (~\$170) for your mic and headphones. You absolutely don't need an audio interface and could just get a USB mic that plugs directly into your laptop. Sound quality is probably comparable. The audio interface just opens up options to connect multiple mics or other instruments and headphones, and it allows more flexibility for controlling input volume externally (vs using software) while recording. If you're a musician, want to record any other outputs like instruments, recommend audio interface.

Monitor headphones

[Audio-Technica ATH-M50x](#) (~\$150) You want monitor/studio headphones and not just regular headphones for several reasons, including: they don't have boosted bass, are usually more comfortable to wear, and I've found they reduce sound bleed - you don't want the sound you're hearing to bleed into the recording.

You can also get monitor earbuds. I have a pair similar to [these](#) that I use when I edit.

Microphone

[Audio-Technica ATR2100x](#) (~\$100) is a good entry level mic w/both XLR and USB outputs, so you can plug it into your laptop OR an audio interface.

Podcasters also love the [Blue Yeti](#) (~\$100) (I think Laurel has this one), which is a USB mic. There are many options on their site but this is their entry level one.

There are a billion mic options out there, but I'll just share one higher-end mic if you're looking for something fancier: [Samson Q9U](#) (\$200) but tbh I don't think a difference in sound quality between the first two and this one is going to be discernible to a podcast audience.

[Elecro-Voice](#) RE50B (\$180) handheld interview mic

You might need to order an [XLR cable](#) if you end up going the audio interface route, as I doubt most of those mics come with one.

Microphone boom arm

[Samson 38"](#) (~\$55) Highly recommend one if you have the space for it. They come in varying lengths, but I think this is the one I have. Mics on a desk or any surface (not suspended) will pick up more noise (tapping the mic, the desk, etc.).

Shock mount

[This one should work with the AT mic](#) (\$20) This attaches to the arm or mic stand and keeps your mic suspended, also reducing noise. This one's tricky 'cause you gotta make sure it fits your mic AND the boom arm or stand, so you might need to do a little more research here depending on which mic you end up getting.

Pop filter

[C-style clamp](#) (~\$20) This will greatly reduce the popping sounds you hear from plosives in speech. It attaches to the boom arm or mic stand and hovers in front of your mic like a little privacy screen for your microphone.

Too much stuff?? Too complicated???

Another option is to buy an all-in-one kit or bundle, like one of these:

[Shure bundle](#)

[Sweetwater bundle](#)

[AT pack](#)

They don't always come with everything you need, but it's a good option for getting started, if you don't want to put too much thought into it. I think as long as you get a kit from a reliable source/brand (like Audio-Technica, Shure, Samson, Blue etc.), you should be good. Sweetwater is a great resource for gear and audio reviews.

Software / DAWs

Zoom

Laurel and I meet over Zoom, along with any guests we have on the show. I record the session through Zoom, which gets exported as one mixed file as well as a separate track for each attendee. I use the mixed track *only* as a guide to sync all of our separate tracks when I'm editing in Audition. Laurel and I both make local recordings of our audio using Audition, and I typically use those files in the edit b/c they're uncompressed and higher quality. For guests, however, I usually use their recorded Zoom audio (it's honestly not bad quality), unless they have the means and desire to record themselves locally.

[Audition](#)

Along with recording our own audio tracks in Audition, I also use it to edit - not because it's the best option (although it is pretty great), but because I already

subscribe to Adobe Creative Cloud, so I don't have to pay extra for it. If you end up using Audition to edit, lmk and I'd be happy to provide a tutorial.

Audacity

A lot of podcasters use Audacity to record and edit because it's free! And fairly powerful and user-friendly. I haven't personally used it in a while but it's always a good place to start before you invest in spendy software.

Descript

Descript is another great option for recording and editing. In many ways I think this type of software is the ~*~future~*~ of podcasting because it has some powerful ML features not yet available in your typical editors and DAWs, like automatic filler word removal and overdub, where you can basically create a TTS (text to speech) model of your voice and then clone it to replace and add words...that you didn't say in the original recording! It's pretty bonkers. It also transcribes your audio and allows you to edit using the text transcription, instead of the waveform tracks. Definitely worth checking out at some point.