

Recording From Home

[BEST PRACTICES](#)

[EQUIPMENT](#)

[UTILIZING PRODUCERS](#)

[RECORDING YOURSELF](#)

[RECORDING MORE THAN ONE PERSON](#)

[RECORDING REMOTE GUESTS](#)

[BEST PRACTICES](#)

Best Practices for better sound

Record in a quiet room. Keep away from windows and outside-facing doors. Ideally, the room should be small and have carpeting. **A closet with hanging clothes can work.** Or, sitting on a bed can work.

Wear a hooded sweatshirt or drape a towel/blanket over yourself and the mic. This will minimize echo and reverb.

Whether using the headphone/mic or a microphone, ALWAYS have headphones plugged into your recording device.

Be conscious when recording of **any outside or environmental noises that are going on.** If a plane or ambulance is going by, stop talking and wait until it's quiet again. Don't clink water glasses or walk around while talking, and if you can take off any bracelets or loud jewelry, please do. If you have long hair, be conscious of it brushing against the mic. [You can generally drink water/move when you're not talking if you're on your own track - the editor should be able to mute you. Check with your editor/producer if you're unsure.]

[EQUIPMENT](#)

For 1-2 people

The best sound is going to come from a good-quality mic in a quiet room. If you are able to get a USB mic, or are thinking of ordering one, we recommend The [Audio Technica 2020+](#) with windscreen. There is also the NEW affordable [Rode NT Mini](#). A cheaper option is [here](#).

But Apple Headphones or other headphones with a built-in mic will do in a pinch. If recording with more than one person, you can get a [headphone splitter](#) and each don a pair of headphones.

Purchasing an Interface

An interface or board allows you to connect multiple mics via USB and also set the gain, pan, and other microphone options. See above for recommendations. It's basically a smaller version of what we use in the studio. The most straightforward one I've used is the [Scarlett Focusrite](#), but honestly anything that has 2 mic inputs is fine. [This one is [pretty dope](#) but it's more complicated.]

With the interface, you would need XLR mics instead of USB mics. Good XLR mics are usually cheaper than the USB ones. This \$40 [SHURE](#) is a good bet. A more expensive option is the better [SHURE](#), or [AudioTechnica](#). Amazon also has all sorts of accessory packages, including XLR cables, shock-mounts, arms, and windscreens. From there, it's pretty much plug-and-play, with the interface taking the place of the microphone that you plug into your computer. All the programs will recognize the interface as having 2 inputs and you can set each track to a different one.

Forgoing all programs and using a handheld recorder

Another option, for either recording with another person or by yourself, is to forgo using the computer and instead getting a handheld recorder. The [Tascam](#) and [Zoom](#) are the most popular ones. With these, you would buy XLR mics, and record directly to the device. A producer can help you set up the device for recording. If your computer doesn't have a SD card reader, you would need that as well, although I think you can also buy a cable that will link the device to your computer.

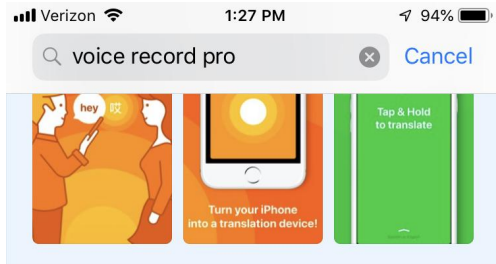
After recording, you would upload the files to a computer from the SD card and send the .wav files to your editor.

Using your phone

There are actually a LOT of phone apps that are useful for recording. Both Anchor and Cleanfeed (see below) can be accessed from a phone browser. In fact, [Audio Technica](#) makes a mic for plugging into a lightning cable.

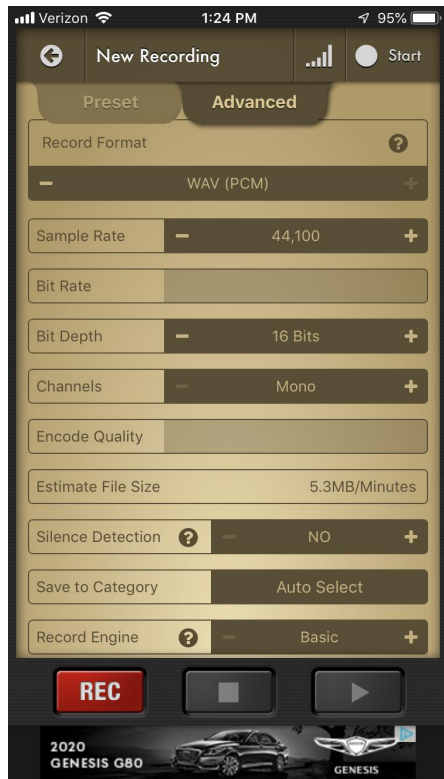
Please follow best practices in recording with your phone as well - quiet room, headphones plugged in, soft surroundings.

Another FREE app for iPhones is called Voice Record Pro.



I like this one a LOT, because it offers a lot of settings options and you can send the file directly to your editor.

Click RECORD. The record options will show. They should be set to this:



Record Format: WAV

Sample Rate: 44.1k

Bit Depth: 16 bits

Channels: Mono

Then press RECORD. When finished, press the STOP button. Options will appear with what to do with the file. I suggest SEND BY EMAIL or SAVE TO GOOGLE DRIVE. You can also take this time to re-name the file, but it's default named by the date and time.

SETUP WITH A PRODUCER

We understand that recording on your own is a daunting task, which is why we'll have a producer help you set it up. Please look over the options for recording and decide which one you want to use, or we can have a consultation after you've looked through the document.

For shows that usually have a sit-in producer, we can still monitor the record session remotely via [CLEANFEED](#) to make sure everything goes well and provide feedback. We can also use this help you set the gain / mic loudness / set up the session so that it's not all on you. Producers are also available to provide guidance and help! If you are not sure who to contact, you can always email studio@audioboom.com

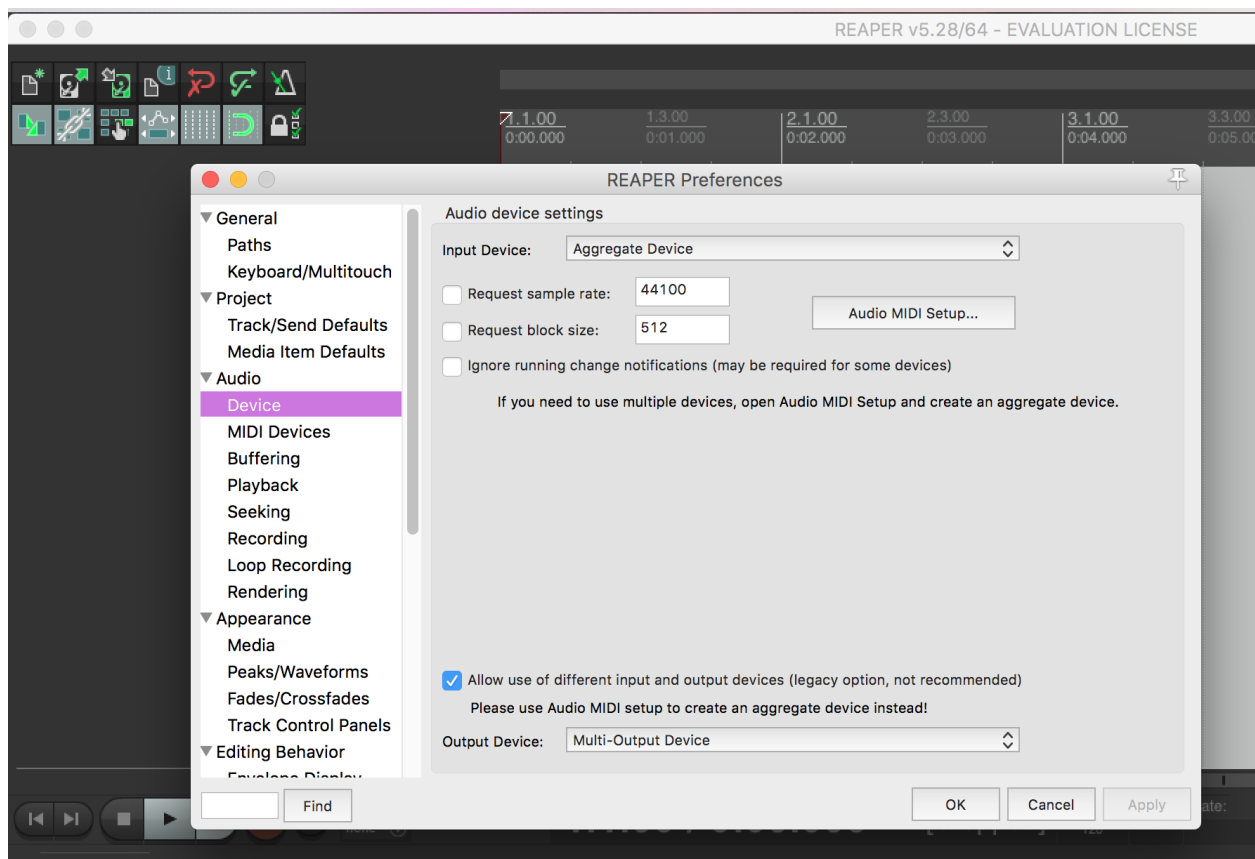
RECORDING

HOW TO RECORD YOURSELF

Option 1: Reaper

Download Reaper from reaper.fm. **This is a link to the OLD version of reaper - I HIGHLY recommend Version 5 over the new one.** Install as instructed. ~~NOTE Reaper is free, but will ask you to upgrade to the paid version each time you open it. Wait for the countdown and press “still evaluating.”~~ **Update: [Reaper now has a Free Temporary License](#).**

Open Reaper. A new project window will appear. First, click on REAPER -> PREFERENCES. On the sidebar, go to AUDIO -> DEVICE.



If you are using a MICROPHONE, select the dropdown menu by INPUT DEVICE. The name of the microphone should be one of the options. After selecting the microphone as the INPUT DEVICE, below check the box that says “Allow use of different input and output devices.” A new option for OUTPUT DEVICE will appear. For the OUTPUT DEVICE select “built-in output”.

If recording with more than one microphone, see [Using Multiple USB Mics](#).

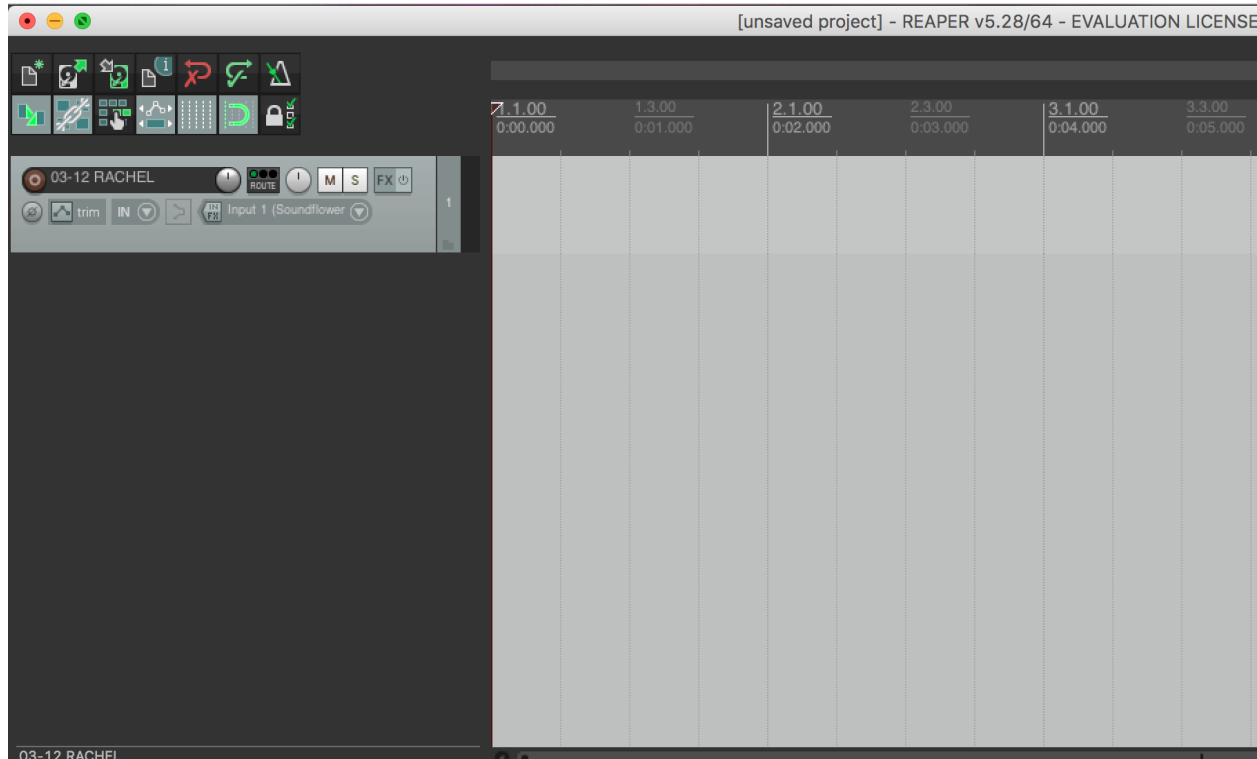
If you are using HEADPHONES WITH BUILT-IN MIC, you should select “default input/output”.

If using an interface or mixing board, the name of the interface or mixing board should be an option for INPUT device, and it should be used as both the INPUT and OUTPUT.

SUGGESTED SAMPLE RATE is 44.1k [44100]

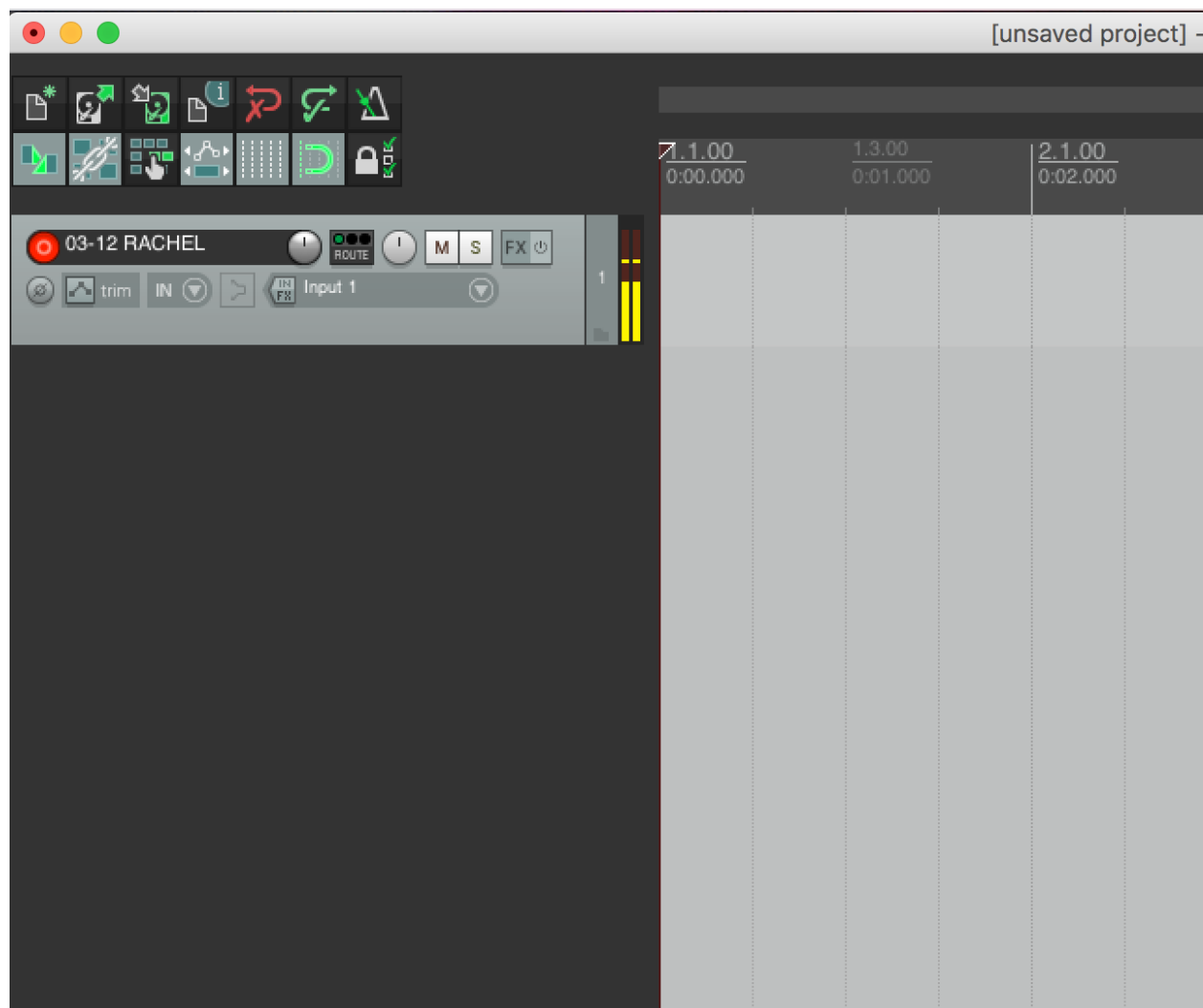
When finished, click APPLY and then OK.

TO SET UP A RECORD SESSION: Click TRACK -> Insert New Track. A new track will appear on the side. Double click to rename it to DATE-YOUR NAME.

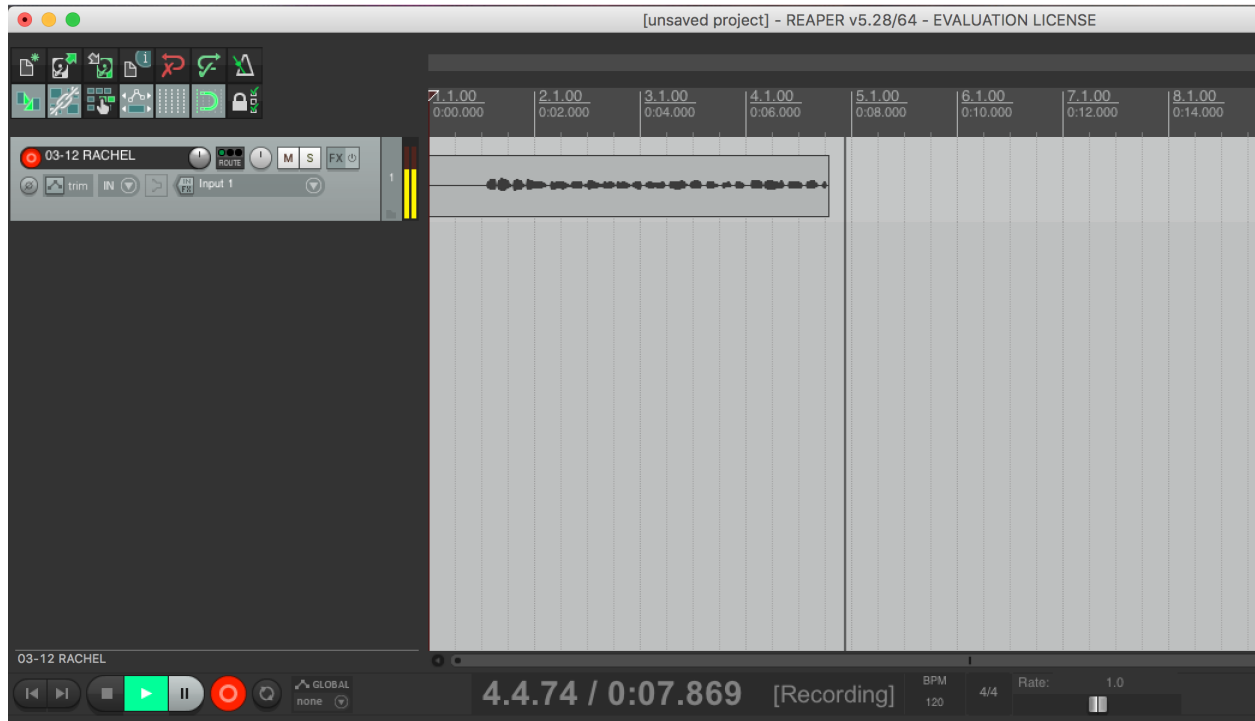


Under the track should be labelled "INPUT 1". Click the small arrow next to it to access the dropdown menu. If using a MICROPHONE, the name of the mic should be an option. If using headphones with a built-in mic, this should already be set to the default.

TO RECORD, arm the track by clicking the small red button next to your name. From here, you should be able to see the input levels.



Now press the large red button at the bottom of the tracks, and the record should start!



When finished recording, press the STOP button. A window will pop up asking you to save. Click SAVE ALL.

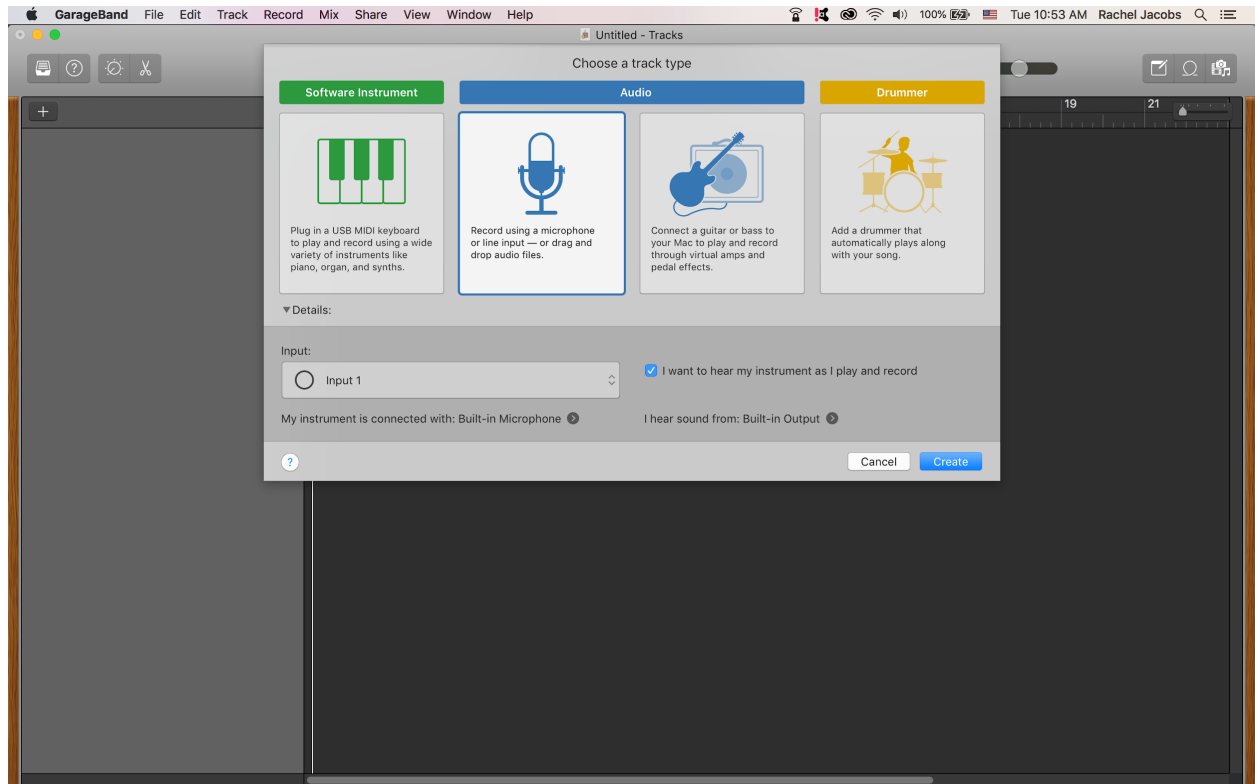
Please send the WAV file to your respective producer!

Option 2: Garageband

Most macs come with Garageband. Otherwise it can be downloaded via the [app store](#).

On opening, select NEW PROJECT / EMPTY PROJECT.

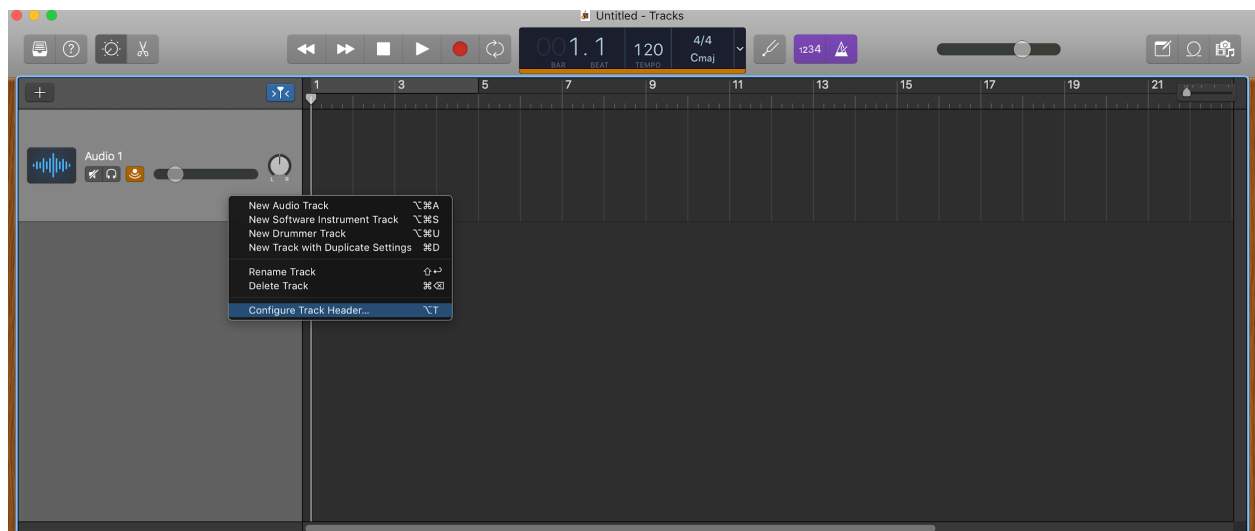
A drop-down menu will appear asking what kind of track type you want to add. You should click the picture of the microphone.



Also click the checkbox that says “I want to hear my instrument as I play in record.”

At the bottom, it says INPUT. Under INPUT, your microphone should be an option. Otherwise, you are using the default with headphones/ mic attachment, and leave it as-is. Click CREATE.

Label your new track, which is default called “Audio 1”. I usually put the date and the name of the speaker. Right-click on your track, and select “configure track header.”



Click the check box next to “Record Enable”. The record button should now appear on the track.

Press the red dot record button to test your mic. At the bottom of the screen you should also see the track’s popup controls, including “record level” - this will let you set the gain. Best practices is to test the mic by talking normally and not setting the gain too high. REMEMBER you can always make a track louder in post, but you can’t fix clipping if it’s too loud!

At the top, next to the counter, click the small drop arrow. This will change the big clock display. You want it to show “Time”. Next to that, click the 1234 and the metronome, which are highlighted purple, to turn off count-in and metronome.

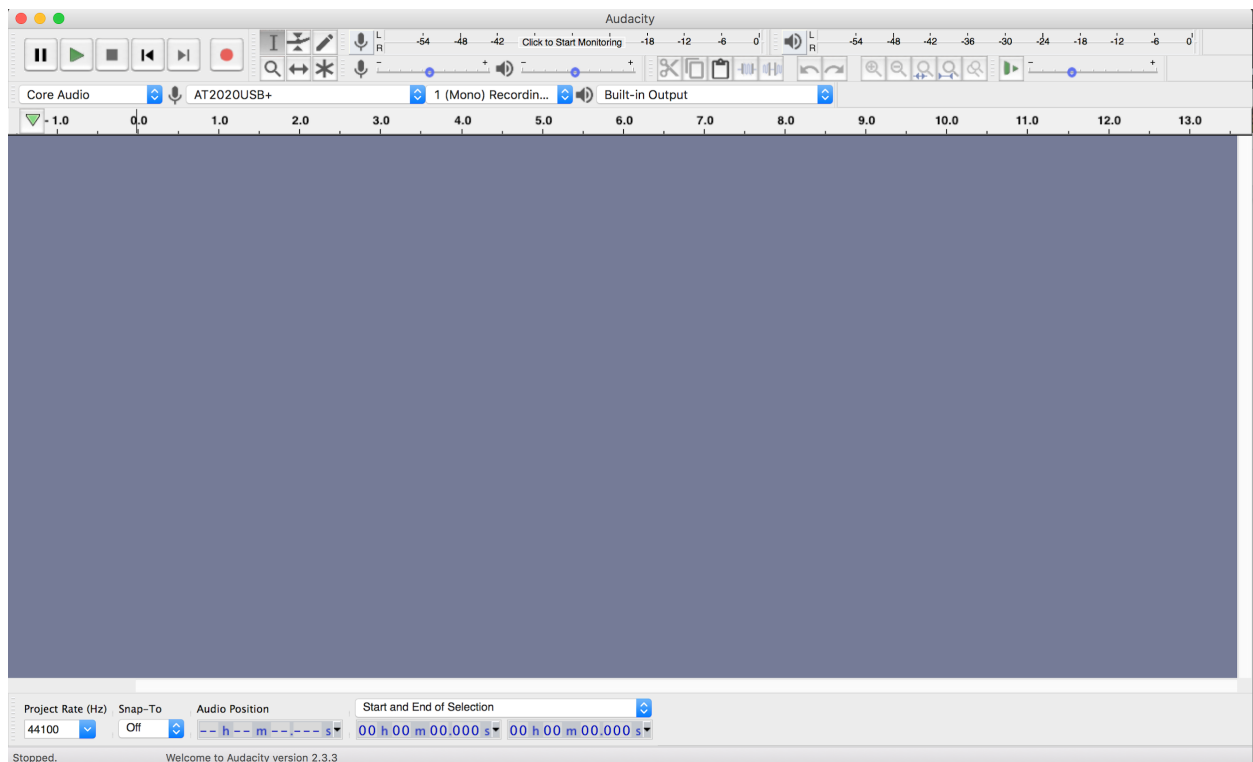
When ready to record, press the red RECORD button at the top.

When finished recording, save the file. Send the GarageBand project to your editor.

NOTE TO EDITORS: To get the audio files out of a Garageband project, right-click on it and select “Show Package Contents”. Under Media -> Audio Files will be the .waves.

Option 3: Audacity

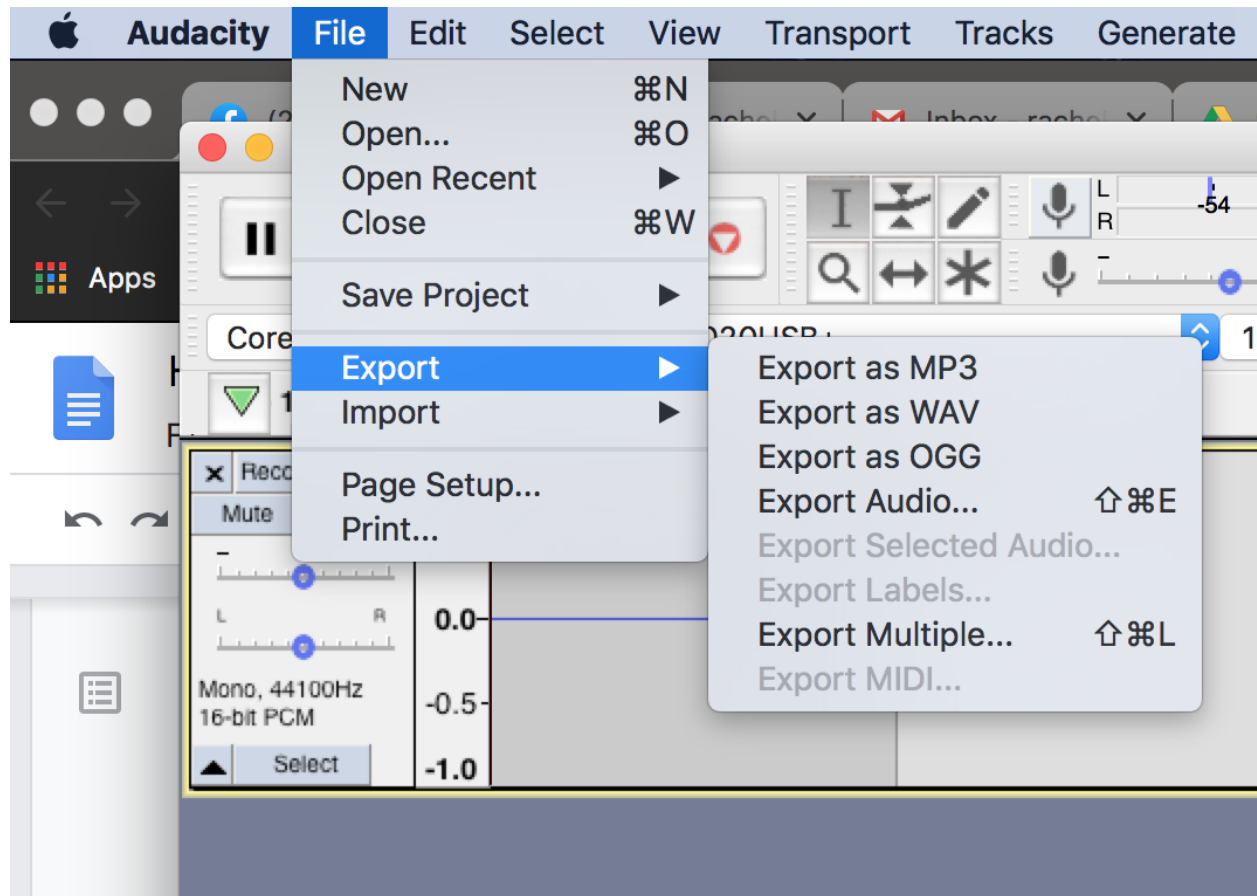
Open Audacity. You should see a new, blank session.



Next to CORE AUDIO should be a drop down menu where you can select your microphone. If it's not already set to your mic, select your mic.

You're ready to record! Click the large red record button. You should see the waveforms being made as you speak. When you're done recording, press the square "stop" button.

To save the recording, go to File -> Export -> EXPORT AS WAV. This will save just the wav file. You can also save the session file as a redundancy.



Send the WAV file to your editor.

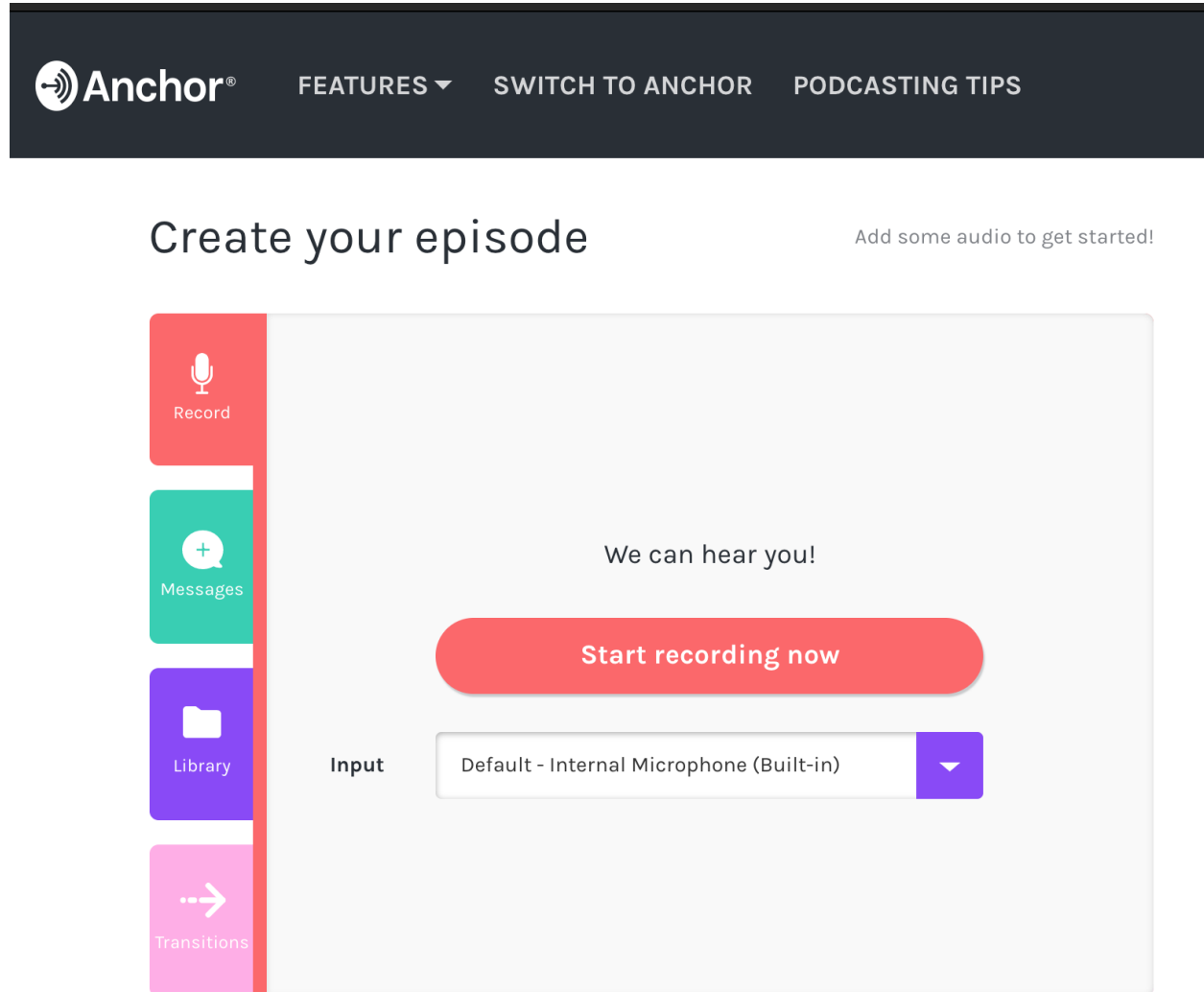
Option 4: Anchor

Anchor can be used on the computer or on your phone. Please note that you can only record THIRTY MINUTES at a time with anchor.

Sign up for a free account on anchor.fm. Click on "start recording now."

Click on the large red “Record” button. You’ll see a drop-down menu to choose your INPUT. If using a microphone, choose your microphone. If using headphones with mic, DEFAULT should be used.

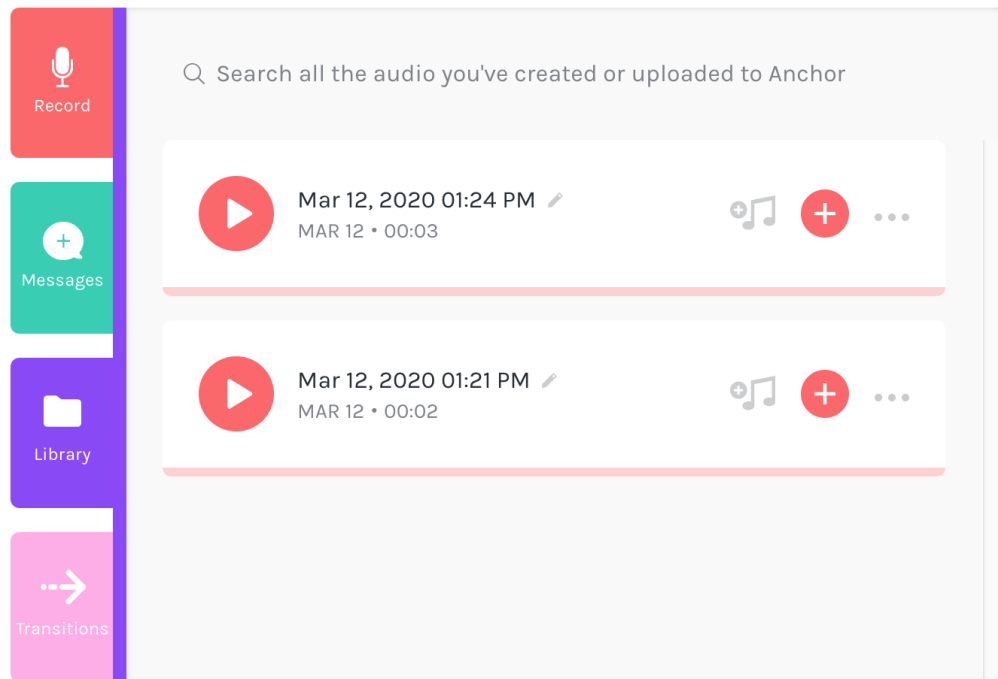
Click START RECORDING NOW.



When finished, press STOP RECORDING. The segment you just recording should appear in a list.

Create your episode

Add some audio to get started!



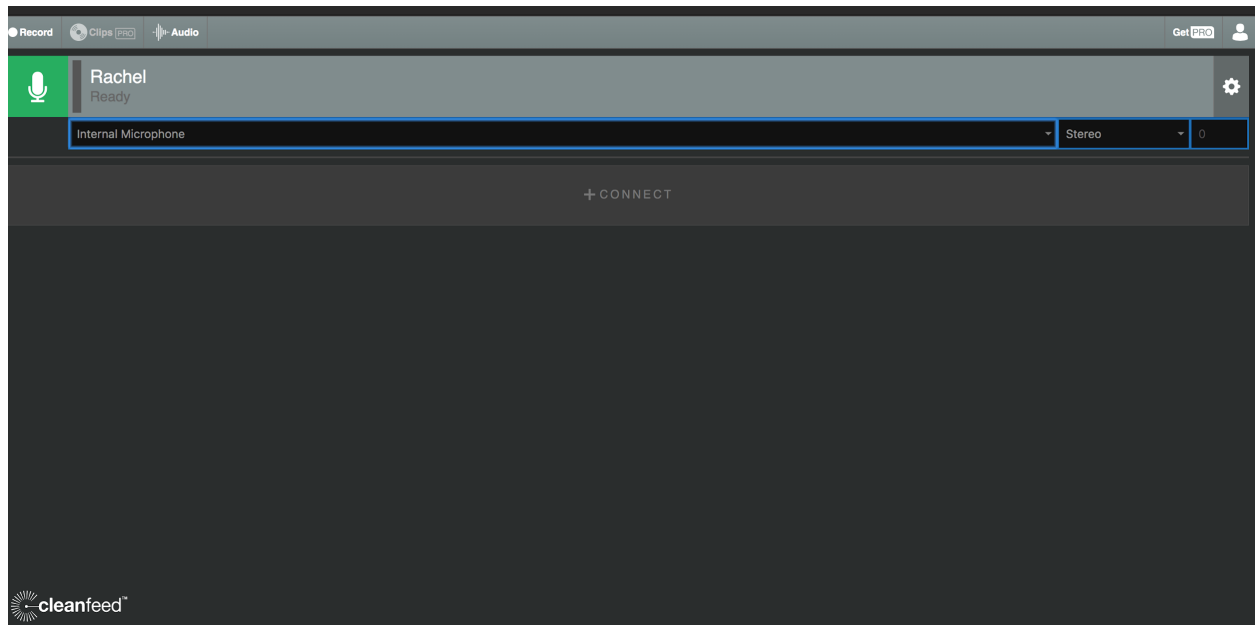
Click on the three dots next to the recording and select **DOWNLOAD AUDIO FILE** to save it to your computer.

Send WAV file to your respective producer!

Option 4: CleanFeed

Cleanfeed is a browser-based recording system that you can use on your computer or phone. It allows you to connect to other people recording as well and hear them clearly.

Create an account on [Cleanfeed.net](https://cleanfeed.net). Once logged in you'll be taken to a recording session.



Click the gear on the right side of your track. You'll get a drop-down menu with your input source. If using a microphone, please select the mic. If using headphones with built-in mic, select "default".

To connect to other people, click CONNECT. Enter the email address of the people you want to connect to. A link will be sent to them, and they should soon appear in the room.

To record, press RECORD in the upper left corner. PLEASE NOTE that Cleanfeed does NOT SAVE AUTOMATICALLY. You must DOWNLOAD the file as it is recording.

PLEASE NOTE that CleanFeed does not record separate tracks unless you use the paid version.

RECORDING MORE THAN ONE PERSON / MORE THAN ONE MIC IN THE SAME ROOM

Using Multiple USB Mics

If you want to go the USB mic route, you are going to have to set up what is called an AGGREGATE DEVICE. This is a Mac Utility that allows multiple inputs/outputs to be designated as a single input/output.

Plug in both of your USB mics and go to Midi Settings.

Go to Applications -> Utilities -> Audio Midi Setup [or search for Midi in Spotlight].

You'll see a small window with a list of your audio devices. At the bottom of the list should be a plus and a minus button. Click on the plus button to add a device. Click "Add Aggregate Device"

A new Aggregate device will appear on the list. Click on it, and you should see all the device options next to check boxes. Check the boxes for the two USB mics. If you are planning to use SOUNDFLOWER to record guests (see below), also click on Soundflower.

Rename your Aggregate device if you want.

You have set up your aggregate! Here's how to use it:

IN REAPER: Select PREFERENCES. Under AUDIO -> DEVICE Your input device should be AGGREGATE DEVICE. Your output device should be DEFAULT SYSTEM OUTPUT [your headphones].

In each track, under INPUT you should be able to select either of the two USB mics. Make sure each track is set to a different USB mic. You can do this by tapping on each mic to see which track is affected.

IN GARAGEBAND: Select PREFERENCES. Click Audio/Midi. Your input device should be AGGREGATE DEVICE. Your output device should be DEFAULT SYSTEM OUTPUT [your headphones].

In each track, under INPUT you should be able to select either of the two USB mics. Make sure each track is set to a different USB mic. You can do this by tapping on each mic to see which track is affected.

Purchasing an Interface

An interface or board allows you to connect multiple mics via USB and also set the gain, pan, and other microphone options. See above for recommendations.

Forgoing all programs and using a handheld recorder

Another option, for either recording with another person or by yourself, is to forgo using the computer and instead getting a handheld recorder. See above for recommendations.

HOW TO RECORD GUESTS

Cleanfeed

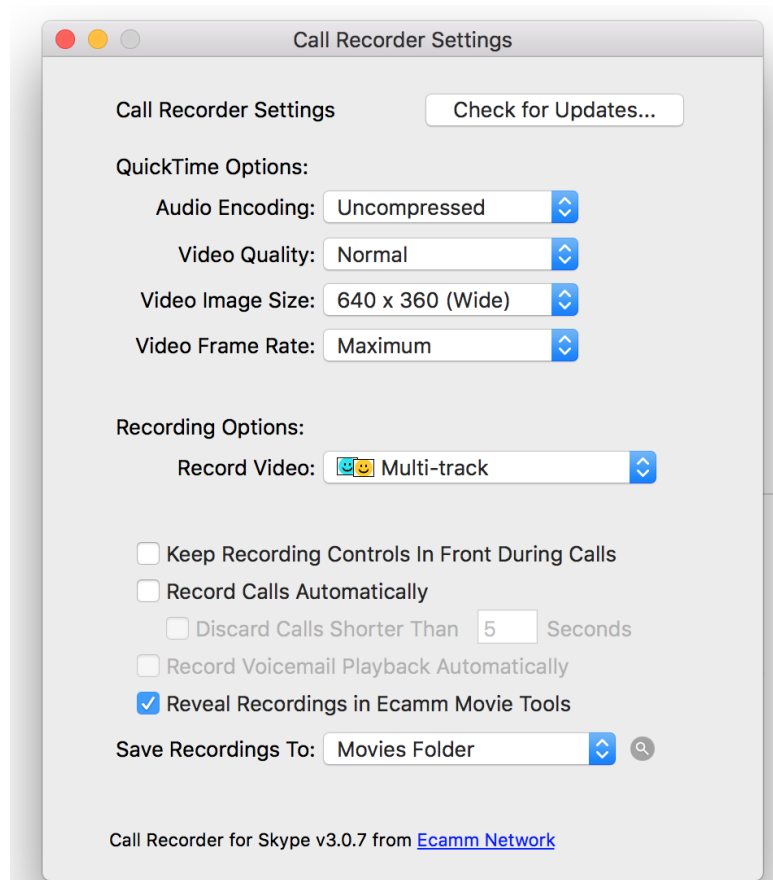
With CLEANFEED you are able to send the room to someone else and they will be recorded in the same place you are. I also recommend running cleanfeed to record a remote guest while recording yourself into Anchor, Reaper, or Garageband. Cleanfeed also SOUNDS better than these other options. But here are other ways to record a remote guest.

Skype Recorder

Skype supports a number of third-party recording services that will record skype calls. I use one called [ECAMM SKYPE RECORDER](#) and I am more than happy to share my license for it. Let me know if you are interested, and I can send you the download link.

Skype recorder will automatically appear as a little floating window next to Skype. Make sure you have the correct microphone selected in the Skype AUDIO AND VIDEO settings. You want the MICROPHONE to be your USB microphone [or Aggregate Device] and the output to be DEFAULT / BUILT-IN OUTPUT.

Call recorder settings are also essential. Set up correctly, you'll be able to have the guest and yourself on separate channels, which means you don't have to record both in Ecamm and Reaper. Click on SETTINGS and a window should pop up. The settings should look like this:



The most essential are:

Audio Encoding: UNCOMPRESSED

Record Video: MULTI-TRACK

Save Recordings To: It automatically goes to the Movies Folder, but assign it a folder to save to so you know where it ends up after recording.

PLEASE NOTE IF RECORDING WITH MULTIPLE PEOPLE. eCamm will only record one track for your side of the conversation and one track for your guests. I.e. If you are two people connecting with a guest over skype, the two of you will be on the same track in eCamm.

Soundflower

Soundflower is a FREE utility that allows you to record directly from the sound playing on your computer. IE if you were playing a youtube video, the engine would recognize this and record it, even if your speakers are off. You can download it [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE that because of newer OS's security, you must DISABLE some of your computers functions in order to install it. There are instructions on the link page, but I HIGHLY RECOMMEND having a producer walk you through it.

Once soundflower is installed, it should be added to the aggregate device. From there, it should become an option in Garageband/Reaper when selecting the input.

Loopback or Audio Hijack

[Loopback](#) acts as a hybrid between Soundflower and the Aggregate Device. It's kind of like having an audio interface device on your computer. It's an application, and so to use it you would download it and open it on its own. Note that the free version only allows up to 20 minutes at a time of recording.

It's a little bit complicated, so please consult with the producer before using this as the primary device.