

## TIPS for SOUND RECORDING in VIDEO PRODUCTION

Just like any steps of video production, sound recording is equally important. However, most people tend to ignore the fact that viewers easily get frustration when watching something but can't quite hear clearly. In fact, there are many ways to cover up visual errors, but if you record poor quality sound, it is virtually impossible to recover it.

### 1. Choose the right mic for the right video shooting environment

One-mic-fits-all doesn't apply here. Every shoot is different. Different types of microphone have specific roles and function in video shooting. The more you know about each nature, the better outcome you can achieve.

#### a. Lavalier Mic (Clip Mic)

Specification: Attaching a clip mic to collar, ties or other clothing. It's small, hand free and hidden by clothes. It mostly used for talk shows, news, interview or public speaking.



#### b. Shotgun Mic

Shotgun mics are designed to capture sound at a distance. The highly directional polar pattern is perfect for focusing on sound coming from one specific area



#### c. Boom Mic

A directional microphone that mounted on a long and extended pole, also known as a "boom pole." It is a boom mic. A boom pole is used to get the microphone in as close as possible to a subject, without getting in the camera shot. Most boom mics are used with shotgun mics. It's very popular in film and television production. It can effectively capture dialogue, ambient sound and foley for post production mixing.



#### d. Recording Pen

Desperate moment comes with desperate measure. If you don't have any quality external microphones, you probably don't rely on built-in (onboard) microphone on camera cause it will pick up a lot of ambient and camera noise which you may not fancy to hear. You may try to use a recording pen if you happen to have one to record sound separately from video source. It allows you to stick the recording pen as close to the subject that you'd like to record as possible. Sound quality may not be perfect, but at least it's barely good enough to be heard clearly.



### 2. Beware of your shooting environment

-Make sure your dialogue is recorded as clearly as possible. It needs to be your absolute priority wherever you may be recording.

-You don't need background noise while dialogue is being recorded. Remember any ambient noise or specific sound effect for your video can be added in the stage of post production. Unwanted noise on dialogue cannot be taken away. You can probably compress the unwanted background noise by audio editing software such as Audacity, Adobe Audition or Pro-tool but the overall quality of recorded audio will be worsened.

-If it's indoor, please make sure the room is noise free. Always remember to turn off the air condition before recording starts.

### 3. Get the mic closer to the subject when in a noisy environment

-No one wants to record voices in a loud environment only if you have no other choices. If it's that so, you have to use clip mic or hand mic (just like a news reporter) to keep a relatively close distance between speaker's mouth and mic. It is to make sure dialogue to be recorded acceptably clear.



### 4. Monitor your video's sound throughout the shoot

Monitoring sound recording throughout the shoot at all time. Making sure it is being listened through headphone if possible. You will be able to listen if the sound level is good enough. Sometimes through headphone, you will be able to hear interruption by subtle noise which you may not be able to hear clearly with bare ears. You never know that tiny subtle noise may cause great annoyance. So listen up folks!

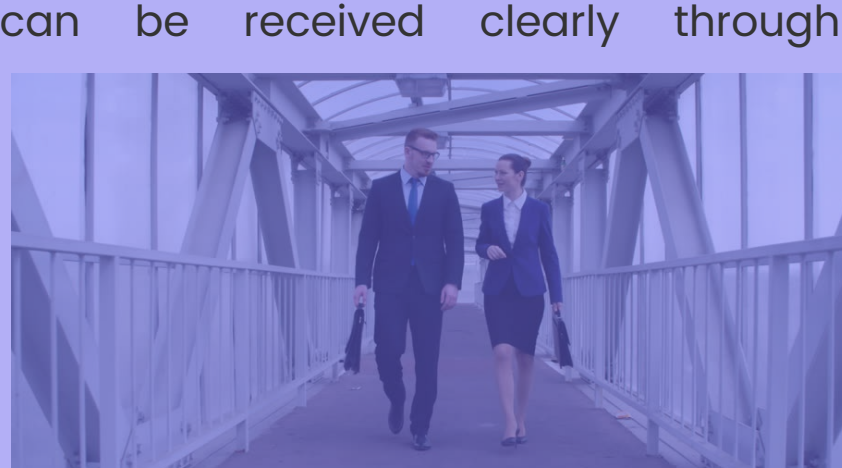


### 5. Walking and talking

It looks like a good idea when a video shoot involves with someone talking while walking. However, you don't want to hear the subject's voice to be recorded as if they are running from far distance to close. It can be more difficult to get a clear audio than when the subject stands still. To be able to do so, you need to have some quality set-up of audio equipment.

-For a short distance, you may use a shotgun microphone on a fish pole. A technician holding the pole can move the microphone to track the subject.

-For a wider shot, wireless clip mic is essential. The subject can move and speak freely with the clip mic on his / her clothes while audio signal can be received clearly through the transmitter connected on the camera.



### 6. Voice Over

Last but not least, what happens when your original plan doesn't seem to work well? Live audio recording fails and no way you could make amends. You might consider to re-arrange the structure of your video so that it can fit better to voice over or voice dubbing.

-Voice Over: Voice that is used for off-camera commentary or announcement of information. It can also be used as a type of narrative storytelling. Voice over is often used in a radio, television production, news reporting or documentary, i.e. David Attenborough in BBC's Planet Earth series.

-Voice Dubbing: original speaker's audio track is replaced entirely by the voice actor's. The dub must be carefully timed and synchronized to match the speaker's lips. Dubbing is common in films, TV production, character based animations or news reporting dubbed into local language.



#### 6.1 The importance of a professional Voice Over

Despite not being necessary to have academic degrees, voice-over artists, like any other professionals, do go through voice trainings from time to time and should possess specific skills and capability to convey messages convincingly to our viewers.

-To be able to speak and pronounce words by words clearly is a must for a professional voice over artist.

-Remember voice over is another form of acting. The voice should make your viewers believe and feel connected with the messages that you want to convey. So don't read out scripts in cold and toneless voice. Try to portray your voice with emotions ;)

