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THROUGH THE LENS

Three ways to get great audio while filming on your iPhone

BY SERENITY CALDWELL

Friday, May 13, 2016 at 1:03 pm EDT
It's easy to take and edit quick videos on the iPhone, but getting great audio isn't always as simple as pointing and shooting.

The iPhone microphone isn't too shabby at close distances, but when you're trying to film in a crowded room, it's not quite enough. Here are a few of my favorite ways to avoid tinny or terrible sound when shooting iPhone video.

Get closer to your subject when in a noisy environment

One of the biggest audio mistakes beginning videographers make is trying to film someone speaking from
and outdoor sounds can all contribute to poor quality here. Instead, if you can't use an external microphone, try getting closer to your subject. Your shot may be a little more zoomed in than you'd like, but your audio will be crisper.

**Use another iOS device**

Of course, you don't have to get close to your subject when using an external microphone. If you have an older iPhone or iPod touch, or you can borrow a friend's, you can use it as a portable microphone with little problem. Use your iPhone to film how you'd like, then set up the second iPhone near where you want audio. (If you're filming interview-style, you can even hold it like a portable microphone or hide it, mic-side-up, in a jacket breast pocket.)
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ana act shooting (“Christmas party, kids playing with new toys”). Then set your video camera to record, and clap your hands in front of the frame — it's an old trick, but a good one.

When you finish shooting, you'll have the video and a separate audio track; you can bring both into iMovie on the Mac and edit accordingly.

Buy an external microphone

If you're trying to shoot something a little more high-quality, chances are you'll want to pony up a little cash for an external microphone. There are a few different categories here: on-device mics, wired lavalier mics, and wireless microphones.

There are a bunch of on-device mics available for your iPhone or iPad, depending on what you plan
Digital ($100), and the Zoom iQ6 ($100); the first is designed for shooting on the go, while the latter two are more for single-room recordings and music captures.

In the wired lavalier section, you've got the Movo PM10 ($22) as a cheap but well-reviewed option, and the Rode smartLav+ ($78).

If you have professional wireless lavalier and portable microphones you own, you can hook them up to your iPhone, but you'll need to pair them with a 3.5mm adapter first.

Your tips?

Those are some of my tips and recommendations; anyone have a setup or tips they like to get good audio when shooting on the iPhone 6? Put 'em in the comments.
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Trappiste
No tips. The iPhone microphone is just bad, poor and simple. That phone is simply not designed for shooting video. You need a Lumia with sensitive, high-amplitude stereo mics.

1 year ago  |  REPLY  |  -2

Rene Ritchie
Hahahahaha!

1 year ago  |  REPLY  |  4

evandroarruda
Actually the Lumia
I don’t know what they’ve done, but the sound quality when recording a video is just amazing. Take a look at this sample: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stXJ45o4uMs

Serenity Caldwell

If our own Daniel Rubino hadn’t taken that, I would have sworn the video used external sound. The Lumia phones clearly have excellent sound capture, and I’m a little jealous now. Hey, Apple, maybe poach some Lumia
There isn't one phone that does everything perfect. With that in mind, Serenity has tips are excellent. Thank you for that. Very helpful indeed. Sent from the iMore App.
I am an iPhone guy and have no intention of changing that. Having said that, it is refreshing when a specialist like you acknowledges that the iPhone has its own limitations and say so - instead of laughing it out.
This is the most stupid thing, I've ever heard. There are plenty of ranking where iPhone 6 is placed in top 3. Actually, according to DxOMark, iPhone6/6 plus takes first place, because of its incredible camera. Check out here:
ne camera, Einstein.

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durffmobile

Einstein never had an iPhone
Doooooyyy

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Gsarfin

I'm surprised I've never thought of using a second iPhone w/ voice memo before. Great tip!

Sent from the iMore App

http://www.imore.com/how-get-good-audio-while-shooting-video-your-iphone
Yep! I did the same when I used to record myself playing piano. The video recording iPhone was quite near to me so I'd have my old one somewhere else in the room just in case. This was really useful if I played too loud as the closer mic would often crackle.

The clapping idea is good. I used to just bash some keys really hard :)

iFunbags

I think it sounds like a good idea for an app to do this automatically via Wi Fi or Bluetooth, unless it's already out there.

Sent from the iMore App

Gsrfin

Agree!
Serenity Caldwell

This one does multi-cam video, though I imagine you could theoretically use it for audio, too.
https://itunes.apple.com/app/recolive-multicam/id576184759?
at=10l3Vy&ct=d_im

iFunbags

That looks pretty cool!

Sent from the iMore App

photograph

I found the microphone is pretty good, not for professional use though, I
infty

Does iMovie automatically line up the audio and video? Or does that have to be done by hand?

Serenity Caldwell

By hand, though it's pretty simple to do.

StinkySocky

That's what the clap is for, so you can line the audio up with the visual at that point.

Posted via the iMore App for Android

davidnkeng

I self narrate outdoor videos
or it seems inappropriate to speak loudly. For this purpose I use the standard, old white iPhone earbuds with their integrated mic. Works surprisingly well. If it's windy you can cup your free hand around the mic. If you're surrounded by people you can get by with a golf whisper.

1 year ago  REPLY  ↑  ↓  1

Serenity Caldwell

Great tip! I usually coat my mic in a little bit of foam to keep out popping Ps and Ts when I use this method, but it works like a charm.

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Dano312

I've successfully used the ME-12 mini-directional mic that Olympus makes for use with its voice recorders. It fits the iPhone headphone slot perfectly. Since the mic head
An iPhone mic pointing off to one side or the other by 90 degrees from where you're actually shooting.

The mic, which even includes noise cancellation, is small enough to just toss in your pocket. Not bad for something that costs only $12 - $14 dollars at B&H, Amazon etc.

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dexterouz


1 month ago  REPLY  ↑  ↓  0

Aaron

The Shure MV88 is another great mic option. Very versatile.

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