

The Truth About Digital Recorders

Every Consultant Needs One

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Don't Let Yourself Get Overwhelmed

Almost any make or model of digital recorder will let you do most of the things you want to do with it. If you want to produce professional-sounding audio, you might need to invest in something a little more expensive, but you can certainly get something good enough for an independent podcast out of a device that costs less than \$100.

Batteries

Batteries you can replace have an advantage over batteries you have to recharge: you can buy a big package of AA or AAA batteries and just refill your recorder whenever you need to, instead of having to plug it in for several hours. Nevertheless, as long as your recorder is fully charged at the start of the day, you should be all right.

Recording from Your MP3 Player

Most MP3 players have a built-in microphone. Most of them aren't very good, but you can still leave yourself memos with the record function on your MP3 player. There are also microphones and other add-ons for Apple's iPods for people who don't want to carry a dedicated recorder.

Recording from Your iPhone

Griffin's iTalk Recorder is free from the App Store in iTunes, and it works. (There's a premium version too, but the free one has been successfully tested by podcasters.)

External Microphones

In many cases, the built-in microphone will be all you need. But if you want inexpensive custom-built external microphones, try Giant Squid Audio Lab in Michigan: www.giant-squid-audio-lab.com.

A Few Suggested Models

- *iriver IFP 700 and 800 series (no longer made; try eBay). Noteworthy features: sensitive built-in mic, accepts mono or stereo external mic, also records from line-in; records in MP3 format. AA battery.*
- *Sanyo ICR-700 RM. Noteworthy features: voice activation, built-in USB connector, records in WMA or MP3. 2 AAA batteries.*
- *Olympus WS-300 and WS-311. Noteworthy features: built-in USB connector, mono and stereo modes, records in WMA format to maximize space. AAA battery.*
- *Zoom H4 and H2. Noteworthy features: better quality sound, uncompressed audio, multiple tracks. About 3x as expensive as the models listed above.*

Who Is a Member of BACN?

Most BACN members are independent consultants, but everyone is welcome. We have an inclusive membership policy: if you attend a BACN meeting, you automatically become a BACN member. We'll put you on our meeting list and let you know about future meetings.

What Does Membership Cost?

There are no membership dues, but we do charge fees for some additional services. BACN is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization: all income goes to covering our expenses, which may include airfare and hotel for special guest speakers from out of town.

How Often Does BACN Meet?

BACN meets 10 months a year (no meetings in August or December) on the fourth Friday of the month, except in November, when meetings are held on the third Friday to avoid conflicts with Thanksgiving.

BACN

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For more information
www.bacnetwork.com