

# How to make a podcast

## **Hardware – something to record with and on to**

If you're making a podcast at home, you can use a computer with a sound card. You'll also need a microphone that has a suitable connector for your sound card. Any electrical store such as Maplins ([www.maplin.co.uk](http://www.maplin.co.uk)), Dixons ([www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk)) or Currys ([www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk)) will be able to advise you on the best model to use.

If you want to record people out and about, you'll need a portable recorder and a microphone. A lot of mp3 players and minidisc players have built-in voice recording functions. To improve the recording quality, it might be worth buying an additional microphone.

## **Software – something to edit your recording with**

You'll need some audio recording software to allow you to record and edit your podcast.

You may already have some software on your computer that came with your sound card. If not, there are several reasonably priced options available such as WebPodStudio, PodProducer and Audacity.

Editing your podcast will make it sound more professional. You can tidy up your podcast by removing any 'umms', 'errrs' and pauses. You can cut out anything that went wrong and you can add in sound effects or music.

If you are adding music, steer clear of commercial music because you'll have to pay royalty fees. For more information about using music on podcasts visit [www.mcps-prs-alliance.co.uk](http://www.mcps-prs-alliance.co.uk), which explains about the copyright rules.

Remember to save your website as an mp3 file, as this is the most common file format for podcasts.

## **A website – somewhere to publish your podcast**

In order to share your podcast with the world, you'll need to put it on a website. If you have an existing website or blog (see [www.fiftyforward.co.uk](http://www.fiftyforward.co.uk) for more information on creating a blog) you can use this to promote your podcast.

All you need to do is upload the mp3 file, link to the file from your website and then make sure you've got a way of directing people to click on the link.

If you don't have your own webspace, there are lots of websites that can host your podcast. Most podcast hosting sites have a small cost attached. There are thousands to choose from. Explore some of the most popular sites below:

**[www.jellycast.com](http://www.jellycast.com)**

**[www.myonlinepodcast.com](http://www.myonlinepodcast.com)**

**[www.podomatic.com](http://www.podomatic.com)**

**[www.podbean.com](http://www.podbean.com)**

**[www.talkshoe.com](http://www.talkshoe.com)**

Many of these sites will also help create an XML feed for your podcast. This means that your podcast can be submitted to podcast search engines across the web, such as iTunes. You never know, your podcast could make you an international star!