

Equipment recommendations

VOICE RECORDERS: OLYMPUS VN SERIES

Important - If you buy an Olympus voice recorder, make sure the model number has "PC" at the end – otherwise you won't be able to download your recordings to a computer.

Olympus VN 5200-PC (\$40 new, \$27 used at Amazon)

Advantages:

- "My equipment fits in my shirt pocket and I can be recording in the time it takes to pull it out of my pocket and press a button."
- Runs on 2 AAA batteries
- Can plug a shotgun microphone in

Disadvantages:

- Built-in microphone OK, not great
- Can only record in compressed format
- "pickup pattern is less than desirable" – picks up lots of background sound



Olympus LS-10 (\$250 new)

Advantages:

- Designed to be a higher-quality recorder; can record in 24-bit / 96 kHz uncompressed format
- Runs on 2 AA batteries
- Can plug a shotgun microphone in

Recommended Settings:

- Recording level 10, Low Cut ON and Mic Sense Low
- windscreens over microphones



HIGHER-END RECORDERS

Marantz PMD660 (\$500 new)

Fostex FR-2 LE (\$600 new)

SHOTGUN MICROPHONES

Cheaper than parabolas and much easier to transport; also better for very low-pitched sounds (like those of large owls, doves, cranes, etc.). They must be used with windscreens and shockmounts, which raises the price above what you see here.

Sennheiser ME-66 (plus K6 power module): probably the best value in a quality shotgun mic – around \$500 new

Sennheiser ME-67 (plus K6 power module): slightly longer and more directional – around \$550 new

TELINGA PARABOLIC MICROPHONES

Much more directional than shotguns, at least for most sounds. Telingas can be disassembled and the dish in some models rolls up. Must be used with high-end recorders; from Stith Recording only. Several models, \$1200-\$2200.

FOR ANY AND ALL TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT GEAR, SOFTWARE, ETCETERA:

Nature Recordists Listserv

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/naturerecordists/>

(alternate archives)

<http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/naturerecordists/>

List of recorders with specifications (a group project of the Nature Recordists Listserv):

<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/type/www/audio-reports/RecorderList/RecorderList.htm>

GOOD PLACES TO BUY ONLINE

Stith Recording

<http://www.stithrecording.com/>

Family business with good service; a little pricey; the only North American distributor of Telinga products. Happy to give advice in personal emails.

B&H

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

Huge online website; if you know what you want and it's widely available, they probably have the cheapest price.