

## Recording equipment - Krister

Mon May 12, 2008 8:57 am by krister

Hi! This is a short description of what I use to record myself for the Running the Narrow Path Podcast, please post a comment or a question if there is something that is unclear.

I use an iriver ifp 799 mp3 player for recording myself when running, To the iriver i have connected a lavalier microfon, a Sennheiser MKE2, that I clip on to my shirt on the chest. The built in microphone doesn't give me the audioquality I want. I have a windscreen over the mic to avoid some of the disturbing windnoise. I started out with a homemade windscreen, that I made out of a woven ribbon, that worked ok, but now I have a foam rubber windscreen made for the Sennheiser mic. The iriver I usually carry attached to an armband on my arm or in the pocket of my jacket. The settings on my iriver are almost the same as the settings Nigel is using, see his post in this forum. The only difference might be that I have the "Line in Recording Mode" set to stereo. I don't really know what difference that makes but it gives me the recorded audio in two tracks when I import the file for editing. I haven't really tried so many different settings even if I'm doing some experimenting with the 128kbps setting on a higher value to see if it makes any difference.

I have tried different applications for the mic wire, when I had the wire hanging loose outside of my clothing I sometimes got my swinging left arm tangled up and ripped the mic off my shirt so now I usually try to put it inside of my shirt, in through the sleeve and out through the neck, or I sometimes stick it on to the shirt with small pieces of duct tape. What if you could sew a buttonhole on to the shirt on the chest and put the mic wire through there? Maybe I'll try that on an old shirt to see how it works. I also put duct tape over the zippers when running with a jacket to avoid disturbing noise.

I have tried recording with a stereo microphone but wasn't happy with the result. I know that some other podcasters use stereomics with good result so it is certainly possible, maybe I just didn't put enough effort into learning how to do it the best way.

I guess you just have to try different applications to figure out what works the best for you, I have found that on the recordings that failed because of too much noise from the mic rubbing against the shirt, or nothing at all recorded because of a wrong setting on the iriver, or something else that might have happened that ruined the recording. That has always happened when I said the most clever things perfectly correct grammatically in the English language. Unfortunately you'll never hear this. On the recordings with the best audioquality I usually have spoken a lot of nonsense, using the language in a strange way.

You can always edit the nonsense out before posting the episode but you cannot really improve a poor quality.

I don't have any earphones when recording so I don't really know if anything was recorded or what it sounds like until I get home and download the audio into the computer.

When recording in my "Studio", (in front of my computer) I use an old UHER reporter tape recorder, a really old one made for tape on reels not cassettes, I don't record on tape though I just use the tape recorder as a mixer connected to the computer because the UHER reporter microphone is a really good one, and I'm quite satisfied with the quality that comes out of it. My studiorecordings I usually record directly into audacity wich I use for editing my podcast episodes. I have also been recording with the microphone from a headset and that was also ok. Studiorecording is a lot easier because there are many different applications available for that. Recording on the track is a bit more tricky.

My advice to you that wants to try podcasting is to try different applications, record and edit short messages and start with sending them as attachments in e-mails to friends for feedback. If you pick the friends carefully you will be able to get the feedback you want. When you feel ready, go ahead and upload an audio file on the internet for us all to listen to. And you will learn how it is done as you go along. That's the way I'm doing it.

Krister

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