

Without a doubt, recording audio is one of the most crucial ways for the paranormal investigator to collect evidence. When performing an investigation, recording audio and trying to catch the "perfect EVP" may be your best hope in explaining to the client what may or may not be going on in their home.

Recording audio does not need to be complicated however, it starts by knowing what equipment to use and you must know how to use it properly to obtain the best results.

Over the year we have experimented with many different ways to record audio.

- *We have tried several computer programs recording directly to a laptop computer*
 - *Tried different styles of handheld recorders of varying qualities*
 - *With and without external microphones*
 - *Different types of microphones*
- *Experimented with white noise generators, Faraday cage, tape recorders and others.*

Our preferred Setup:

Use a laptop computer with Adobe Audition or Goldwave as the recording software, along with a Parabolic Microphone for audio input.

Both of these programs (there are others) will work with your computer to record audio. Adobe Audition (earlier versions) work better for this type of recording than the latest CS3 or CS4 releases. Adobe is not a free program so be prepared to shell out big bucks. GoldWave on the other hand is less expensive and has come a long way from their earlier versions.

When recording audio, you start to amass a huge amount of data. Using a large sampling rate will give you larger file sizes. Using a sampling rate set too low will keep your file size manageable but you will be reducing the quality of your recording.

We have found the best setup that will give you a good quality recording with a manageable file size is to set up Adobe or GoldWave for 44,100 and saving your files as an MP3 or WMA format.

...Your Microphone...

The quality and quantity of the evidence you collect is directly related to the equipment you use! The microphone you use to record audio is the backbone of what you will be collecting. The best all around microphone we prefer to use is a parabolic microphone. (Target.com, around 35\$) Using the same principles as a dish antenna, this microphone amplifies and concentrates audio frequencies resulting in a greater chance of collecting those week hard to get EVPs. Using the software mentioned above you will be able to monitor and adjust the input level of your recording so you will not be overdriving or over-modulating your recording software.

There are many opinions about using this type of microphone. Yes, it will amplify any and all sounds. You may hear a dog barking down the road, or a neighbor's conversation, however with training using this type of microphone, it becomes easy to pick out EVPs.

A regular omni-directional microphone will also work well, but you will not be getting the amplification or directional attributes of a parabolic. Do Not Use a high end quality studio microphone. Many are designed to NOT pick up EVPs.

Other Tools to Record Audio

Do not rely on Cell Phones and Camcorder to record audio.

Recording EVPs can be accomplished by using a good quality handheld audio recorder. However, the quality and quantity of what you record is directly related to the quality of the equipment you are using. Using good quality equipment will help you determine what you have recorded.

A handheld recorder when used properly can yield good results. For the best results you must use an external microphone with a handheld.

I do not recommend using a parabolic with a handheld. A handheld will have a hard time dealing with the input of over modulated audio and the result will be loss of quality.

A greatly overlooked part of this whole process of recording and listening to your recordings.

To properly analyze your recordings we recommend using a computer. It makes it a lot easier, using recording software to clip out EVPs. Audio files from your handheld can be transferred easily to your computer or laptop. Headphones are also a must and keep distractions to a minimum.