

5. RECORDING



How will you record your episodes?

You've figured out your scripts... now what?

Recording equipment and process can be one of the most overwhelming tasks when starting a podcast. And it's the area with a lot of conflicting advice on what to buy, where to set up, and more.

But we can simplify it a lot.
And you may more prepared than you think.

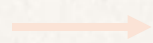




WORKBOOK

See what you have and what you need. Specific tool recommendations are on the next page.

Tool	Need it (Y/N)	Have it (Y/N)	Details: What do you have?
A tool for recording interviews remotely, like Zoom or Riverside.fm			
A table, desk, or other furniture where you can set up and record (ideally in a quiet space)			
A microphone (or multiple microphones)			
Headphones (or multiple headphones)			
A digital audio workstation Note: This is only necessary if you need to connect multiple microphones to your computer			
A field recorder Note: This is only necessary if you will be doing on-the-street interviews, or otherwise recording outside the studio			
Recording and editing software, like Hindenburg, Audition, or Garageband			



YOUR STUDIO

Don't get lost in overwhelming advice online.
Start simple and small!

Microphones

If you have one host or voiceover, get one mic that connects to your computer via USB.



Digital Audio Workstation

If you have multiple hosts and/or guests, the digital audio workstation (DAW) is a tool that connects multiple microphones (and headphones) to your computer.



Recording Software

The software on your computer will connect all the pieces. It will also be where you can edit the audio and assemble the episodes.

Recommendation*

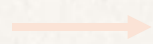
- [MAONO Individual Microphone set](#) (\$89)

Recommendations*

- Microphones: [RODE Podmic and Boom](#) (\$190 per host/guest)
- Headphones: [Audio-Technica ATH-M20x](#) (\$89 per host/guest)
- DAW: [Focusrite 4x4](#) (\$299)

Recommendation*

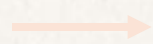
- [Hindenburg PRO](#) (\$12+/month)
- Garageband (free on Macs)
- Adobe Audition (\$22/mo, or part of a wider Creative Suite subscription)



YOUR STUDIO

How's it all work together? Here's an example that works for one or two people:





YOUR STUDIO

Newer tools can simplify the recording and editing process.

Online tools

These include Riverside.fm, Descript, and many others. Using these tools will replace the recording software for your studio.



Pros

Simplicity! Using Riverside.fm to record your interviews, for example, can get you good audio easily. Plus, they offer online editing and assembly options (the next step in the Podcast Roadmap).



Cons

While tools like Riverside.fm offer a lot, you may sacrifice audio quality. Plus, recording software often offers better control over your finished product. And their reliance on AI presents ethical and quality issues.



How do I start?

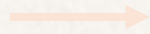
When you assemble all your tools, build in time to play!

You'll want to test that everything is working, yes.

But you'll also want to test your approach, your style, how conversations and interviews will work with the technology, and more.

Conducting a couple test episodes will be an excellent way to ensure the show works, that you enjoy the process, and that the show will have staying power!



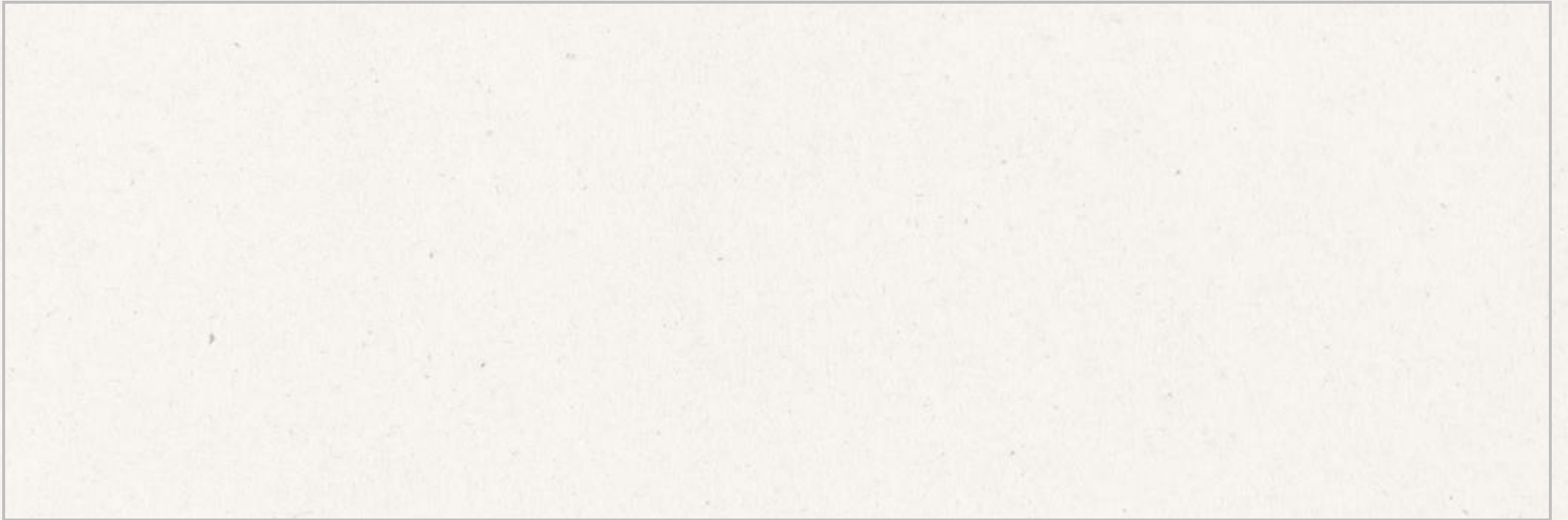


WORKBOOK

Time to Play!

When you've assembled all your equipment, it's time to test your recording setup..

What's working great? What's awkward? Take notes here.



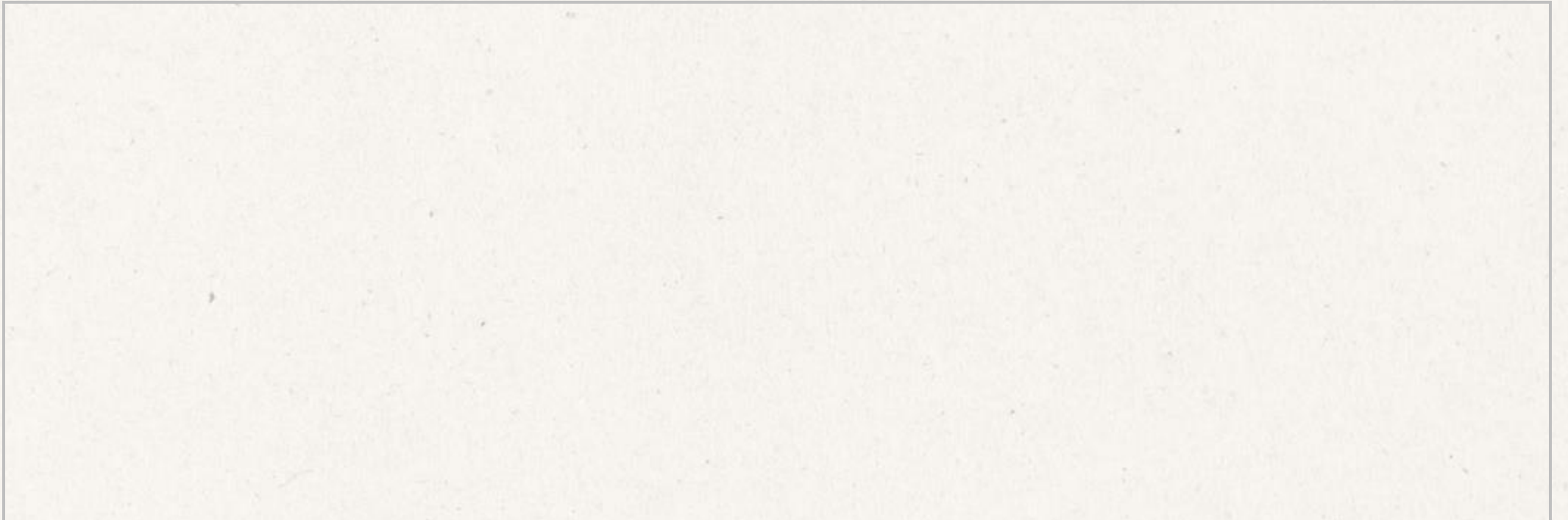


WORKBOOK

Test Episode

And now it's time to create a test episode. Use your draft script from the previous section (or a new one). Record your narration, interview, or other content. Don't worry about editing at this point; that comes later.

What's working? What's awkward? Take notes here.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin gray border, intended for taking notes during the recording process.

NEXT STEPS

Speaking from experience: do the test episode :) Even if you think it's unnecessary. What you may think will work can come off stiff or strange, or simply not capture what you were hoping for.

In our next section, we'll explore putting an episode together through editing.

