

Audio Recording Workshop

<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/vpa/etb/>

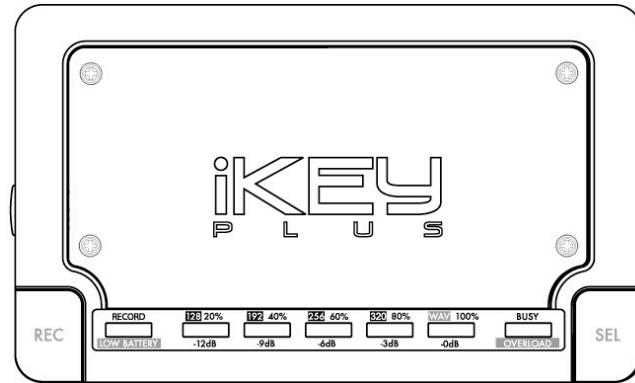
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Required software/supplies for this workshop:

Description	
iKey Plus portable USB recorder http://www.ikey-audio.com/ikeyplus.htm	
USB thumb drive http://www.kingston.com/flash/datatraveler_home.asp	
Audacity Download for free at: http://audacity.sourceforge.net/	

Audio Recording Workshop

In this workshop we will explore two ways of recording audio with your contact microphone: using the iKEY Plus USB recorder and using your desktop or laptop computer.



1. iKEY Plus audio recorder

The iKEY Plus manual has excellent step-by-step instructions on how to record sounds from almost any audio source. Each iKEY audio recorder comes with a manual but you can also download it from iKEY's website at:

http://www.ikey-audio.com/pdf_manuals/ikeyplus_om_08_31_06.pdf

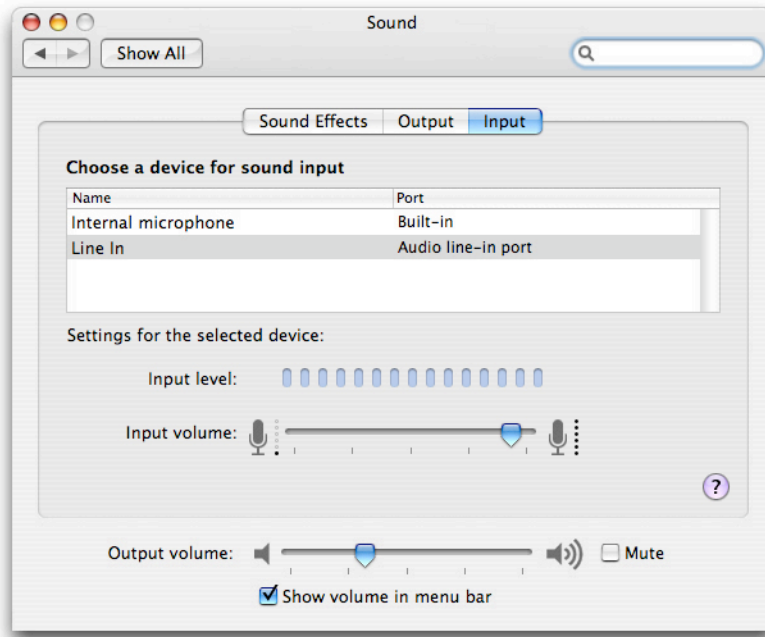
Specifically, look at pages 9 to 17 for instructions on audio recordings with an external microphone.

Please keep in mind the following important points;

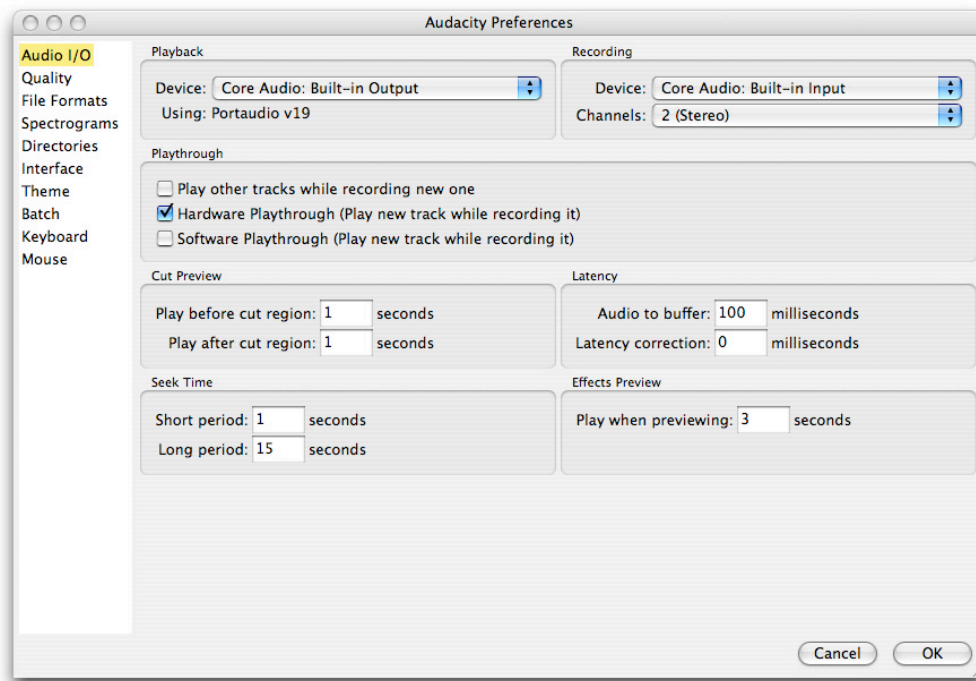
- The iKEY audio recorder can be powered with batteries (rechargeable or non-rechargeable) or an external power supply, which is included. IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE ALKALINE OR OTHER NON-RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES, **DO NOT** CONNECT THE POWER ADAPTER AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU WILL RISK EXPLODING THE BATTERIES AND DAMAGE THE IKEY PLUS DEVICE!
- Make sure to record in the best possible format: "WAV", which yields CD quality sound (44.1kHz, 16bit). Push the SEL button on the iKEY Plus until the "WAV 100%" button lights up.
- Always use headphones when you record your sounds - this will allow you to monitor the recording and adjust the input volume if necessary.
- Always remember to eject the USB drive by holding down the REC button for 3 seconds before disconnecting the USB device. The LED light will flash 3 times in a row, showing that it is now safe to remove the device. FAILURE TO USE THIS EJECT PROCEDURE CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS RANGING FROM DATA CORRUPTION TO THE COMPLETE ERASURE OF YOUR RECORDINGS!

2. PC and Audacity Software

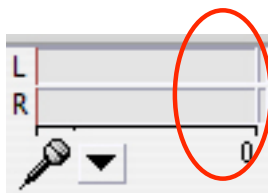
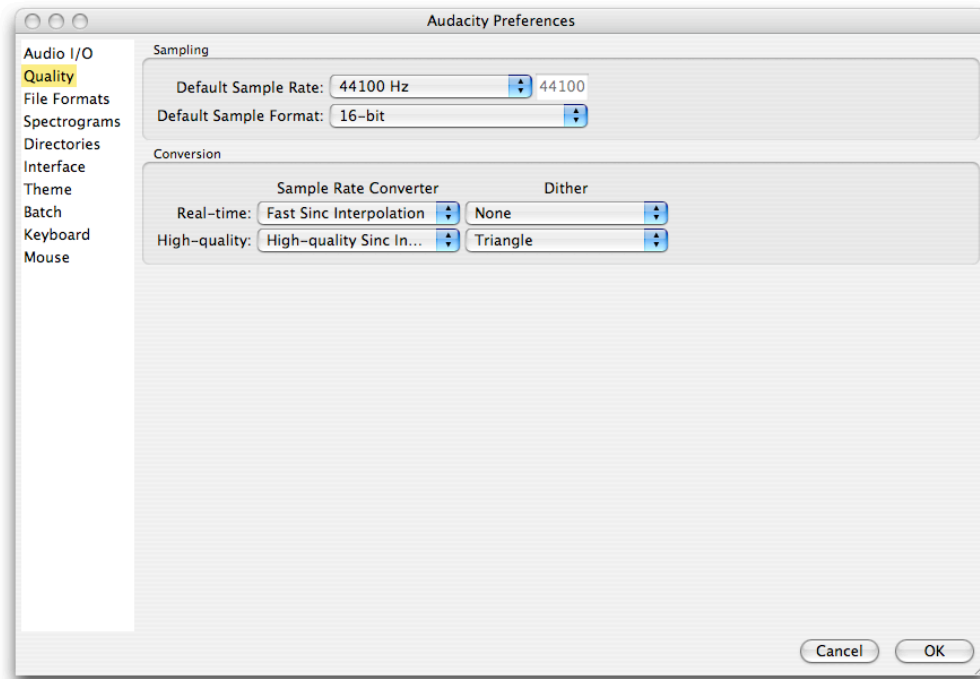
You can also use your own computer and the free software package “Audacity” to record sounds with your contact microphone. Download Audacity at: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> and install the version for your operating system. Then make sure that you have set the correct input source in your computer’s system settings/preferences. On the Macintosh computer this looks something like this:



After starting Audacity, you need to double check for the proper input source in the software’s preferences:



Set the recording format to either WAV or AIFF (WAV or wave files are the default audio standard on PC machines and AIFF – audio interchange file format is the default on the Macintosh). Set the default sample rate to **44100Hz** and the default sample format to **16-bit**.



Now you can start recording your sounds, make sure that the input signal does not go into the red area to the right of the VU meter. You should be also able to hear the sounds play through the software while you record them (check the hardware/software play through in Audacity's preferences)

Press the Record button to start recording



and the Stop button to stop recording.



When you are done recording, save all your audio files in one folder with the name of your project, Audacity will create a project file and separate audio files per saved audio recording for you. This way, you make sure they all stay together in one location where you can easily find them.