

## Equipment

This is what scared me most. How would I know what to buy? Or how to use it? Or how to configure it? Or how to fix it if it broke down? I'm folding into the fetal position thinking about it right now! But if I promise to come down off the ledge, will you do the same? The gear breaks down (excuse the expression) to 5 elements, which get easier to use and less expensive all the time. And if you buy the right equipment, you won't need a padded room either...unless you refuse to come down off that ledge. You'll need:

<b>Computer with speakers</b>	<b>Microphone</b>	<b>Power, A to D Converter and/or Sound Card</b>	<b>Cables &amp; Accessories</b>	<b>Editing Software</b>
Considerations:	Considerations:	Considerations:	Considerations:	Considerations:
Most new laptops and desktops have sound cards and sufficient power to run editing software. Call your manufacturer or ask your favorite computer whiz.	At a specialty sound store (e.g. Guitar Center) get suggestions for a directional mic (won't record background sound) that makes your voice sound good. Or ask a sound engineer what to buy.	No need for this if your mic has a USB connection.	You need a mic stand and music stand for copy. Get them used if possible	Lots of free software on the web. Try: Audacity, or Sourceforge.net
If your computer doesn't have speakers, get them at an office supply store. Don't use your laptop's built in speakers, you'll want to hear your read amplified.	Explore mics with USB connections, like Blue Microphone's "Snowball."	Better mics need to have their signal converted from analogue to digital, and they need power. Consider M Audio's Duo – it's all in one.	If you get the components to the left, you'll need connecting cables.	There are plenty of editing products out there for purchase. Google: Pro Tools, Sony Vegas, etc. Products will probably includes classes and/or tutorials.
Your most expensive purchase.	Look for sales, or used equipment on Ebay.	Older computers may also need a sound card added.	Headphones	If you have a Mac, use Garage Band.
	I love C-1 Studio Condenser by Studio Projects		Pop guards, stabilizers, etc	