

Audio capture techniques and vocabulary

In practice, there are 3 ways to add dialogue to a film.

1. The first is to use the audio that you capture on the camera that is recording video. This has the advantage of being synched with your video footage, but that is about it. The quality will diminish as the actors move away from the camera, and the microphone will pick up audio from the camera (focussing, etc.)

2. The second is to use external audio capture device. This could be as simple as a cell phone set to capture audio with it's built in microphone, or as complicated as a multi-channel recorder that has external microphones on boom poles attached to it. Likewise, it could have wireless lav mikes attached to it to capture the audio of a conversation that is happening hundreds of feet from the camera location. The challenge with this setup is that you need to stay organized when recording to keep track of which audio track belongs to which video track. This is accomplished by using a slate.

3. The final way to add dialogue is in a studio after you have completed recording your video. This has the advantage of capturing audio in a pristine environment, where there is not a large crew waiting to move on to the next scene. Audio is captured in a studio, and then added to the video in an editing suite.

This is known as ADR, or Additional Dialogue Replacement, and is fairly common.

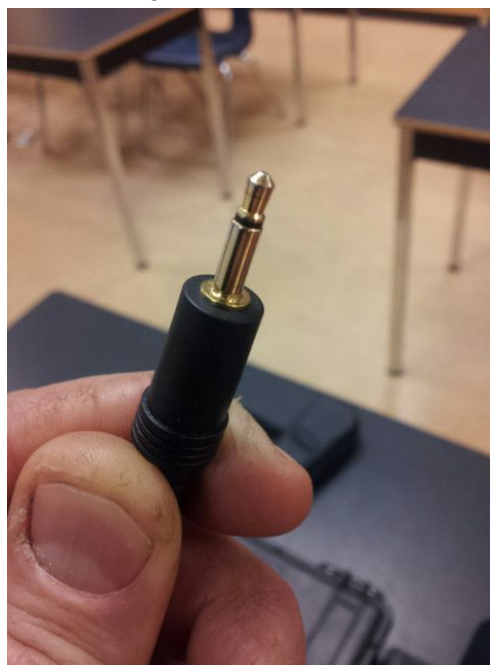
Please become familiar with the correct names for the following audio components:



Above is the ZOOM H4 Recorder. It has two built in microphones that enable it to be used as a stand alone stereo recorder. It also has the ability to record from external microphones via xlr inputs, or 1/8" headphone jacks. You can also record from both an external source microphone *and* the built in mics on 4 channels.



This is an XLR connector. This is the female end of the cable, and typically attaches to a recording device or soundboard.



This is a 1/8" headphone jack. It can be used as an input on either the ZOOM H1 or H4. Sometimes the other end of the cable will be an XLR cable for connecting a shotgun microphone to a device that accepts only headphone jacks.



This is a ZOOM H1 recorder kit. It accepts $\frac{1}{8}$ " inputs, or can be used as a stand alone stereo recorder. In the bottom left of the picture is a windshield that fits over the built in mics.
In the top left corner is an A/C wall charger that allows the unit to run off 110V.
To the right of the charger is a tripod to mount the ZOOM on.



This picture shows a Lavallier microphone in the bottom left. It gets clipped onto a lapel and runs to the wireless transmitter to the right of it. The mic and receiver is attached to the actor. It sends a signal to the receiver that is pictured in the top right corner.

The receiver is attached to the audio recording device (ZOOM H1 or H4) via the cable in the top left.