

Tips on Working with Sound Equipment

- Avoid using the on-camera mic, it picks up too much background noise
- When choosing a location, try to pick a quiet place with a minimum of ambient sound (traffic, machinery, lots of people)
- Rugs, fabric, furniture, and wall hangings can help to absorb echo if you are in a bare-walled room with a cement or tiled floor.
- When choosing a mic, think about :
 - Location - how close to the source of sound can you place your mic?
 - Directionality - do you want to focus on only one particular sound, or do you want some ambient sound as well?
 - Coverage - how many sound sources do you have? How many people will be speaking and in what order?
- Keep mics as close to the sound source as possible
- Always have headphones to monitor sound.
- Check mic battery and have an extra one with you, just in case.
- Avoid handling the mics as much as possible when you are shooting. Sometimes this can add an annoying crackling sound on your tape.
- Always do a sound check before you shoot.
- Don't forget about the wind! Use a windscreen or try to angle the mic to avoid annoying wind sounds.
- Try to keep you mic cables away from places where people will be walking - cords can be damaged by foot traffic.
- Try not to cross your mic cable over your power cable (the AC line). You may pick up a nasty hum on your tape.

