

daringly Dull

The Equipment Cheat Sheet

A couple of notes:

- All the prices listed below are approximate and will (of course) change
- Where possible I link below to the manufacturer so you can see the details, and buy straight from them, but everything on here is available on Amazon and other retailers. If you do a search for the manufacturer and model number (where there is one) you should be able to find anything on this list.

Equipment Needs

Microphones

- There are less expensive mics out there than what I recommend below, but I'd worry about the sound quality in any mic less expensive than these two.
- If you want something that can plug straight into your phone, without an adapter (both of these mics require adapters), there are other mics that do that. Do a search for: "lav mic iphone lightning" or "Lav mic usb c" depending on what connector your phone has. I prefer using an adapter, especially since most adapters (but not the Purple Panda one) also let me plug in headphones to monitor my audio at the same time as I record. I also want my mic to be able to plug into many different devices, so that adaptability is useful to me. Your mileage may vary.

Audio-Technica ATR3350xiS - \$35

- <https://www.audio-technica.com/en-us/atr3350xis>
- This is very similar to the mic that my volunteers use - they discontinued my model a little while back, and this is the newer, \$5-more-expensive replacement.
- Includes an adapter to use this mic with a cell phone headphone plug, which also lets you plug in headphones to monitor the recording.
- If you have a headphone adapter for your phone (instead of a built-in headphone plug), this included adapter should work with THAT adapter to make this mic work with your phone.
- If you don't know what to buy - this is a really good, very inexpensive mic.

Purple Panda Lavalier Lapel Microphone Kit - \$25-\$35

- <https://www.purplepandastore.com/collections/all/products/purple-panda-lavalier-microphone-kit>
- I haven't used this mic personally, but I've known people who use it and like it.
- It's not compatible with most camcorders, and you're still gonna need an iPhone adapter, but it does come with mini-usb connector for older Android phones (not USB-C). But most Android phones that have mini-usb also still have headphone adapters, so I'm not sure how useful that really is....
- I wanted to give another option for a mic, but honestly, I recommend the Audio-Technica one listed above.

daringly Dull

Equipment Needs (pg 2)

Tripods

- Any tripod will work. Really, just about any tripod. In a later video where we set up the equipment, I use an Amazon Basics 50-inch tripod. It's cheap and does the job.
- More expensive tripods can get you stronger materials that are less likely to break, or a "fluid head" which allows for smoother motion, but we're just setting a camera up for an interview without any movement.

Amazon Basics Lightweight Camera Mount Tripod Stand With Bag - \$20

- <http://amzn.com/B00XI87KV8>
- 50-inch basic plastic tripod.

Amazon Basics 60-Inch Lightweight Tripod with Bag - \$30

- <http://amzn.com/B005KP473Q>
- Slightly more rugged, slightly taller basic plastic tripod.

Cell Phone Mount

- If you're recording on your cell phone, you'll want to add a tripod mount that lets you securely attach your phone to the tripod.

Vastar Universal Smartphone Tripod Adapter Cell Phone Holder - \$10

- <http://amzn.com/B01L3B5PBI>
- There are literally hundreds of these mounts at various price points, but I occasionally use this one. It's clunky, but holds the phone securely, which is what you want.

daringly Dull

Equipment Wants

External USB Hard Drive

- There are lots of portable hard drives out there. I recommend getting something with a name brand - Samsung, Western Digital, LaCie, Seagate. Your data is too important to trust to a company that you don't know.

Samsung T5 or T7 Hard Drive

- \$120-ish for 1 Terabyte, under \$100 for 500GB
- <https://www.samsung.com/us/computing/memory-storage/portable-solid-state-drives/>
- I use a number of different hard drives, but my current favorite is the Samsung T5 (the Samsung T7 is very similar).
- They usually come with both a USB and USB-C Connector, so you should be able to hook them up to about any modern computer.
- They're good, fast (SSD drives are faster than older HDD drives) and reliable.
- I use 500GB drives, which let me put quite a bit of material on them.

Cameras

- For a camera, more money is usually more quality, but you can get a pretty good camera for not a lot of money nowadays...
- Again, your cell phone can do this. You don't need to buy a camera.

Canon Vixia HF R800 - \$250

- <https://www.usa.canon.com/internet/portal/us/home/products/details/camcorders/consumer/vixia/vixia-hf-r800>
- The link will take you to a page with a "Where to Buy" link.
- For inexpensive cameras, I really like the Canon Vixia series, especially this one. It's what I send my volunteers out with.
- It's very easy to use, but has lots of control to adjust the image (if you want). It's compact, gets really good video for the price, and has a microphone input.
- This is a good, cheap workhorse camera.