

Sound Projects

CTLT: DIGITAL ARTS PROJECTS

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Very Easy to Extremely Difficult.

Making a sound project is a multistep process. It involves using both equipment and computer programs. Radioplays, podcasts, and edited interviews can be time consuming, but easy to create. More complex projects, such as recording a song, may require outside knowledge, such as the ability to read music and a familiarity with music composition.

TIMELINE:

The timing largely depends on your vision for the project. Leaving enough time after recording can be the most consuming (and misjudged) part of process. A good rule of thumb to follow is to allow yourself one hour for each minute of edited audio (for example, a twenty minute radio play will likely take twenty hours to edit). Most projects will take **two to four weeks to complete, depending on the complexity of the project, and your skill level.**

- **Less than a week:** A simple, unedited sound file recorded for the web or CD. Allow one hour to learn to use the recording equipment available at the library circulation desk.
- **2 to 4 weeks:** A recording consisting of a number of takes. Allow one hour to learn to use the recording equipment, and two hours to learn basic editing skills.
- **Can easily take more than 4 weeks:** A lengthy sound project (over 30 minutes) with a number of takes, sound mixing and different instruments, intensive editing on the computer. Allow one hour to learn to use the recording equipment, and two to four hours to learn basic editing skills in several programs.

Email CTLT@goucher.edu with a list of days, dates and times you are free to schedule an appointment with a Digital Arts Specialist.

EQUIPMENT:

Choose your equipment based on your project. If you are putting a sound clip on the web or recording a lecture or meeting, you might not need the most advanced equipment available. However, if you are making a sound project for a class, writing a song, or recording an interview that you would like to add to a movie or project, you need to make sure you have the right equipment complete a quality product.

- **Sound Editing Software**
 - Sound Studio, GarageBand, Soundtrack Pro, Logic, Sibelius, and Final Cut Pro are all available in the CTLT Sound and Video Editing Room.
- **Sound for Web, a Meeting, or Lecture: iPod with Microphone**
 - The library offers iPods with voice recorders that are perfect for simple sound recording. Brochures are available in the CTLT.
- **Sound for an Interview to be used as an audio clip for a class or video: Marantz Recorder**
 - The library offers fabulous equipment for this recording type. The Marantz Recorder is a professional level recorder with an external microphone for high quality and portability. Brochures are available in the CTLT.
- **Sound Recording for a song or an edited sound clip: Meet with a Specialist**
 - Schedule an appointment with a Digital Arts Specialist to talk about your needs. They can discuss what equipment would be best for you and what software is ideal

(GarageBand, Soundtrack Pro, etc.). Specialists can also teach you how to use the equipment and the programs so you can complete the project you want.

WHERE TO GET HELP:

Working on a sound project can be daunting if you are unfamiliar with the software or equipment. In addition, even experienced users want to learn new tricks or can run into trouble using the hardware or software. Whether you are new at sound recording or a master, the CTLT is here to help.

- **Pick up a brochure:** The CTLT has a number of great brochures that explain how to use the sound equipment, step by step. Pick one up in the library and bring it with you when you check equipment out.
- **Have a problem with your project or need some quick tips?** Swing by the library and ask a specialist for some help (the Purple or Green Shirts) during library hours between 9am and 11pm on weekdays and some weekend hours.
- **Schedule an appointment with a specialist:** Digital Arts Specialists are available to help with any part of the sound process. From learning how to use the recording equipment, working with software, to getting your project on CD, request an appointment by emailing CTLT@goucher.edu.