

Budget Setups for Voice Acting

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**Links provided are for visual example purposes only. Should your values not align with the company the link goes to, it is highly encouraged for the individual to research and find their own sources to purchase

from. We acknowledge the problematic stance some of the linked examples go to and these companies do not reflect the opinions or values of the presenter and owner of this document.**

This Document is for Educational Purposes ONLY.

Space/Living situation (What's your lifestyle?)

- City vs Rural
- Apartment vs House
- Roommates, Pets, Neighbors
- Rental vs Owning

Structure (What will fit your needs/budget?)

- Permanent

This Doc is Focused more on the Dual-Purpose spaces, DIY builds, and tent setups

- Dedicated spaces that will remain up for years to come.
- Large, heavy structures typically made of highly durable materials (Wood, Metal, ect.)
- Can be a DIY build or purchased
 - EX: [Whisper Room](#) | [Silencer Booths](#) | [Vocal Booth](#)
 - Pro: Sturdy, High quality, Dedicated space, can come in Kits
 - Con: A large investment (many start at \$2k and can go up from there), Cannot always be moved/disassembled easily
- Dual-purpose
 - Not in use all the time and has a dual function
 - EX: Closet or small space with lots of materials that absorb sound and has space to record
 - Pro: Already there, very little you have to build or add
 - Con: Not always the best sound quality (sometimes this can be compensated through [preamps](#) or [recording program settings](#)), not a dedicated space
- Collapsible
 - Lightweight structures that are dedicated spaces and meant to be disassembled
 - PVC pipe frame, a Curtain set up, grow tent
 - Grow Tents (Make sure you have the right dimensions!)
 - [Yield Labs](#) | [Green Hut](#)
 - \$65 - \$300 (look for deals and sales!)
 - Portable Booth tents
 - [VocalBoothToGo](#)
 - \$300+
 - Something DIY can be great, but make sure it's structurally sound. Curtains and equipment may be hanging off the frame and shift the structural load. You don't want anything collapsing during a recording session!
 - Pro: Easy to move/Disassemble, Affordable investment

- Con: Can have some sound quality issues depending on your environment (but this can be compensated through [preamps](#) or [recording program](#) settings), Typically requires add-ons like [shelves](#) & [lights](#)

Planning the setup

This Doc is Focused more on the Dual-Purpose spaces, DIY builds, and grow tents

- Foam, Curtains, Blankets
 - Look at what's affordable and practical for your setup and take into consideration modifications you can make to accommodate your needs and space.
 - Moving Blankets (Great for hanging on your structure's wall for sound dampening).
 - [Uline](#) | [Home Depot](#) | [Target](#) | [USCC](#)
 - Clips: [Amazon](#)
 - Metal Grommets (for canvas, 1/2 in or 3/8in, brass): [Amazon](#) | [Home Depot](#)
 - [YouTube Video for Installing Grommets](#)
 - You can use zip ties to attach them to a frame
 - FOAM
 - Kitchen/Anti-Fatigue mat (for both foot cushion and floor sound dampening)
 - [Amazon](#) | [Uline](#) | TJ Maxx | Marshalls
 - Thick Yoga Mats (extra padding or you can cut to fit your needs)
 - SO many places have these, find the best (cheapest) option for you | Thrift Stores!
 - Interlocking Foam tiles
 - [American Floor Mats](#) | [Amazon](#)
 - Acoustic foam (Light weight for ceiling dampening options)
 - [Amazon](#) | [Walmart](#) | [Sweetwater](#)
 - **Not all acoustic foam is fire-resistant/non-flammable, any polyurethane acoustic foam is flammable and a fire hazard**
 - [Article with examples | The Station club fire of 2003](#)
 - [YT Video of someone setting the foam squares on fire](#)
 - Egg crate foam is **NOT** recommended, it is highly flammable and using it around audio or video equipment is a fire hazard
- Shelves (**Make sure to calculate the shelves into your overall structure's floor plan!**)

Note: Shelves may need some kind of padding/dampener like a towel, carpet scrap, or folded bed sheet.

- Metal Gridwall Display walls
 - Sturdy, **Require a mounting solution**, can customize add-ons
 - Panels and bases: [Uline](#) | [Displays2Go](#) | [Econoco](#) | [Product Display Solutions \(sold in packs\)](#)

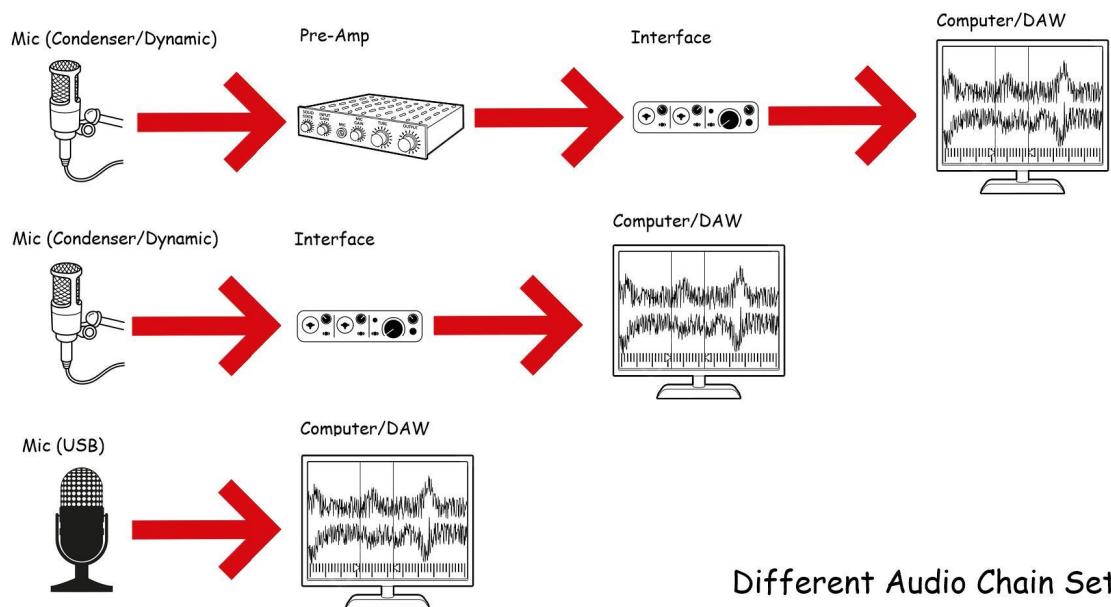
- Gridwall Mounting ideas for attaching to the frame of your structure: Luggage straps, belts, canvas webbing, cinching straps
 - Using a strap option may require you to also support the base of the wire panel. I used strips of cut yoga mat. Stay away from rigid materials (wood, Metal) because they could make noise against the wire frame or transfer floor vibrations. Get Creative!
 - May not be a good option for PVC pipe frames. It will depend on the weight distribution, structure reinforcements
 - Grid-to-grid mounting
 - [Butterfly Joining Clip for Grid Panels](#)
 - [Any-angle joining clip](#)
 - Shelving (check dimensions of your space WITH the addition of shelves)
 - Gridwalls
 - [Uline](#) | [Displays2go](#) | [Econoco](#) | [Product Display Solutions](#)
 - Accessories (Hooks, baskets, ect)
 - Gridwalls
 - [Uline](#) | [Displays2go](#) | [Product Display Solutions](#)
 - Free Standing shelves
 - Do not require a mounting solution to the frame
 - May need a counter-balance weight on the bottom, or securing to frame
 - May require a larger floor space from structure
 - Not as customizable, REALLY check measurements!
 - Ikea [Billy](#), [RUNMARÖ](#)
 - [Target](#)
 - [Kohl's](#) (over the toilet, but could work!)
- Lights (LEDs recommended to reduce heat output)
 - Fairylights!
 - Battery to USB converter | [Amazon](#)
 - Multi USB extension cord | [Amazon](#)
 - Clip Lights | [Amazon](#)
 - Ring lights, Desk lamps, or anything that fits your needs and space
- Smaller Setups/Travel
 - Collapsing Box: Portable, Lightweight, fits in most suitcases
 - Can also be used for Dual-purpose setups
 - [Walmart](#) | [Dollar Tree](#) | [Amazon](#)
 - Can take foam squares to pad the box
 - Mic may need a specific stand to fit
 - [Ball jointed tripods](#) can be good for travel setups
 - Isolation Shield
 - Not great for travel (some fold, not all), but can work in small spaces
 - Some require a Tripod base or mic stand

- [Sweetwater](#) | [Home Depot](#) | [Amazon](#)

Equipment

- **Microphones** (**VERY** dependant on your voice print, needs, and budget)
Seriously, the topic of Microphones could be an ENTIRE dissertation itself
 - **USB Mics**: Great for starting out! Very durable and affordable. Easy to use: Plug and play, PC/Mac/Laptop compatible
 - Yeti Blue | [Sweetwater](#)
 - Popular company, has [kits available for setups](#)
 - Shockmount | [Sweetwater](#)
 - Great for starting out! (look for sales, promos, ebay, “Opened Box” deals, even refurbished units. Check [Resources](#) section)
 - Other USB Mics | [Sweetwater](#)
 - **Condenser Microphones**: Sensitive and better for recording in studio-like environments. Can be fragile, not the best for travel
 - More expensive but can really bring out subtleties in a performance
 - **Dynamic Microphones**: More Durable, better for live performances
- Microphone resources
 - [Sweetwater](#) | [Guitar Center](#)
 - Check the [Resources](#) section for used gear links
 - Condenser Mics require [XLR cables](#) and an [interface](#)
 - Dynamic Mics can be wireless, but for recording you’d probably also want a cable/interface hookup
- **Mic Stands**
 - Ball joint tripods
 - [Joby GorillaPod](#)
 - Flexible to most spaces, can grip onto shelves/ frames/ various setups
 - Travel/Portable friendly
 - Make sure to get the right weight requirements
 - The more weight it can hold the more expensive (6-10 lbs), dependant on your mic
 - Requires the right mounts
 - Some Mics come with a shock mount, check the attachment specs
 - Desktop Stands
 - [Sweetwater](#) | [Guitar Center](#)
 - Boom Arms
 - [Sweetwater](#) | [Auray](#) | [Amazon](#)
 - **Adaptors for mounts**

- Adapter Screw mounts ($\frac{1}{4} \rightarrow \frac{3}{8}$) | [Amazon](#)
- Interfaces & Pre-Amps
 - USB Interfaces: What connects the mic signal to the computer
 - Focusrite Scarlett is a popular brand
 - [Solo](#) is good for single mic inputs
 - Can get them refurbished | [Focusrite](#)
 - Easy to use and lots of [YT tutorials](#)
 - Other USB Interfaces | [Sweetwater](#)
 - May need an adaptor if you're using a standard headphone jack
 - 6.35mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) M $\rightarrow$ 3.5mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) F | [Amazon](#)
 - Pre-Amps: Amplifies a Mic's signal and adds tonal benefits to the recording
 - Not necessary for recording starting out, but would sit between the mic and the interface in the audio chain.
 - DBX: background noise reduction, EQ, Enhancers, Expander and Gate controls
 - 286s [dbx homepage](#) | [Sweetwater](#) | [Guitar Center](#)
 - [Booth Junkie on YT breakdown and tutorial](#)
 - **Booth Junkie is an awesome resource for VO**
 - You will need a patch cable cable to connect the pre-amp to your interface (Always check your equipment chain's connection specs)
 - [Sweetwater](#)



Different Audio Chain Setups

Software: DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)

- Free
 - Audacity
 - Fantastic free program, simple UI
 - PC/Mac/Linux
 - Can sometimes get glitchy for longer records (over 30 min)
 - [YT Channel with tutorials](#)
 - Garage Band
 - Free and included macOS
 - Lots of YT Tutorials | [This one was highly rated](#)
 - Limited in more complex functions
- Paid
 - Reaper (\$60, one time payment and no subscription)
 - 60 day free trial (Read the fine print!)
 - Booth Junkie Reaper Tutorials for VO
 - [Reaper Presets](#) (Part 1 of a series)
 - [Record your first VO in Reaper](#)
 - [Setting up Reaper to record Basics](#) (YT: Reaper mania)
 - Adobe Audition (\$22.99 Monthly Subscription / about \$285.88 per year)
 - Free Trial (Read the fine print!)
 - Industry standard for many studios
 - Tutorials from company available
 - Pro Tools (\$99 yearly subscription for “artist” tier, \$299 for “Studio” tier)
 - Does more than audio
 - Offers Courses and support
 - Logic Pro (Mac Only, \$199.99 one time purchase | iPad is subscription based)
 - [90 day free trial](#) (Read the fine print!)
 - More robust capabilities

Extras (Helpful add-ons)

- Dog Clicker | [Amazon](#)
- Tablet/iPad holder for a Mic stand | [Amazon](#)
- Multi-purpose hook and Loop | [Amazon](#)
- Pop screens | [Sweetwater](#)
- USB Port expander | [Amazon](#)
- Reusable Cable ties | [Amazon](#)
- Command Hooks, Heavy Duty | [Target](#)
- Command Clips, Cable Clips | [Amazon](#)

Resources

- Used Gear: [Guitar Center](#) | [Reverb](#) | [Sweetwater](#)
- Check [Ebay](#), Look out for holiday sales
- Internet and cables: [MonoPrice](#)
- Local Thrift stores for heavy curtains/blankets, shelves, lighting solutions, mats
- [Booth Junkie on YT](#)

- [REAPER Mania on YT](#) | More for music production, but does some GREAT deep-dives into the program as a whole and how to set up your DAW workspace
- Dee Bradley Baker's "I Want To Be A Voice Actor" | [Working from Home](#)
- [VO Beginner's Guide & Resources](#) (with a queer focus) | Google Doc by Cricket Michel

Resources for people who are gender expansive and/or who've gone through a 2nd puberty & physical voice changes

- Seek out SLPs (Speech Language Pathologists) who understand a trans or gender expansive voices
- [Chris Gallego](#)
 - Non-Binary voice coach (singing focus)
- [VO Beginner's Guide & Resources \(With a Queer Focus\)](#)
 - Google Doc is being updated and curated consistently to the best of Cricket's Ability
- Zheanna Erose of [TransVoiceLessons](#)
 - Voice Feminization
- [Queer Vox Academy](#) and their Discord
 - FANTASTIC Resources/Classes for Queer and gender expansive people in voice over
 - They have a talent directory
 - President and Founder JP Karliak ([@jpkarliak](#))
- [The Undead Voice](#)
 - This is a FREE guide aimed to provide people with essential information, resources, and exercises to help them navigate the voice transition process.

More resources!

- [Voices of the Global Majority](#)
 - BIPOC voice acting directory and Resources
- [Disabled Voice Actors Directory](#)