



Digital Creation Hub
ESPERANCE

Presented by
**ESPERANCE
COMMUNITY ARTS**

Recording & using sound effects

Meredith Waters

Thank you to our core funding organisations and project sponsors





Sound Effects and Editing with Audacity

Welcome – in this session we will cover:

- **Using Audacity – a program to record and edit audio.**
- **Adding sound effects to voice recordings**
- **Editing sound effects to enhance audio recordings**



Keeping it legal!

- **Stay on the right side of copyright law**
- **It is not permitted to take someone else's work and make changes to it without permission**
- **So, either write your own content**
- **Or, obtain permission from the creator of the work**
- **Use public domain &/or copyright or royalty free content**



Some sources of sound effects online

- **Freesound** <https://freesound.org/>
- **Soundsnap** <https://www.soundsnap.com/>
- **Youtube royalty free or copyright free**
search in youtube “royalty free + [the sound you need]”
- **MRC** <https://producer.musicradiocreative.com/free-jingles/>



Create your own sound effects

- ❖ Begin to be mindful of the sound in the different environments you find yourself in.
- ❖ Begin to collect sounds and build a library of sound effects .
- ❖ Recording sound effects with your smart phone: Use the voice recorder app on your smart phone
- ❖ Suggested recording apps:
 - ❖ Android: Recforge II <https://www.recforge.ovh/>
 - ❖ iPhone: VoiceRecorder <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/voice-recorder-audio-editor/id685310398>



Microphone/Equipment.

- ❖ A microphone will pick up all the sounds within its area of gain. - Gain is the sensitivity settings on the microphone (not the volume)
- ❖ The human ear filters out lots (can be hundreds) of sounds we don't need to be aware of. - A microphone will not.
- ❖ Listen. Be aware of the sounds in your environment.
- ❖ A unidirectional mic will record from the top of the mic
- ❖ An omnidirectional and cardioid mic will record from the around the sides of the mic
- ❖ Other mic types include lapel or lavalier mics that can be used with your smart device
- ❖ Esperance Community Arts has a variety of recording equipment including; microphones – desktop and portable, tablets and a portable recorder with a 'dead cat' wind sound preventer, all available to be borrowed by people in the community. To make recordings email Jane at ECA admin@esperancecommunityarts.org.au to arrange to borrow equipment.

Audacity

Download Audacity to your computer, laptop, or iPad here: <https://www.audacityteam.org>

See the *attached notes* for some great instructional clips on using Audacity to edit. – I have scoured the internet and I believe at the point in time that this workshop was developed – these clips are the most helpful.

The next step is to start actually recording. Even if you don't have a microphone, start recording with your computer inbuilt microphone and start to play with the effects in Audacity.

If you are wondering what to record – here is website with some great interview questions that you could answer - or find someone to record an interview with.

<https://storycorps.org/>



Adding sound effects to your audio track.

- ❖ If you have downloaded sound effects from an internet site, the sound effects files will be in your downloads file.
- ❖ If you have recorded your own sound effects, you will need to share them from the app to the computer. This is usually done by either clicking on three dots on the RecForge II app, and then clicking 'share'. You will then be given options to share via messages, email etc and for large sound files – 'link sharing' is an option. This is where a link can be emailed to where you want to share the file – and the actual audio file can be downloaded from there. ** Note that to keep the file in the best quality as possible, either email or link share. Sharing files via sms or messenger will reduce the quality of your audio track.
- ❖ VoiceRecorder also has a share via wifi upload option. To do this, both the phone and the computer you are uploading to, must be connected to the same wifi.



Adding sound effects to your audio track cont.

- ❖ Once the sound effects file is on your computer – open Audacity
- ❖ To add the sound effects, click and drag the sound effects file from downloads into the Audacity work space you have open with your voice track.
- ❖ To edit the sound effect, highlight it and click on ‘effects’ in audacity. In that menu you can find a variety of different options including amplify (or to make quieter use amplify but enter a negative number). Other popular effects are ‘fade out’ or ‘fade in’
- ❖ To move the sound effects track to where you are wanting it. Click on the ↔ on the tool bar at the top. Then click on the audio track you want to move. Click and drag to where you want it to be.
- ❖ To add space in your voice track to fit the sound effects in; find a pause in your voice track, highlight and copy the space. Then click and paste it into the section you want to create a pause in.
- ❖ When you have finished editing, the whole project can be exported as a .wav or .mp3 file



Check out more workshops

For more assistance with creating an audio recording with sound effects, please contact me on manager@esphopefm.com.au to arrange a time to meet.

To really round out your skills, please see the other workshops on offer presented by some amazing people who are part of the Digital Creation Hub. The skills and knowledge they will share with you, will mean the sky really will be the limit on what you can create.

<https://esperancecommunityarts.org.au/digital-creation-hub/>

And, if you would like to share your audio projects with the community, 103.9HopeFM Esperance Community Radio would love to broadcast your project. Email manager@esphopefm.com.au to work out how best to make this happen 😊

I wish you all the best with your creative projects.

All the best
Meredith Waters

