

FUNKYGENE

AUDIO GUIDE FOR BETTER STREAMS

Clear audio builds trust faster than an expensive camera. Use this guide to catch the problems viewers notice first.

THE PRIORITY

If viewers have to struggle to understand you, they leave. Start with intelligible speech, control unwanted noise, and monitor what the audience is actually hearing.

1. GET THE MICROPHONE CLOSER

- **Distance matters.** A decent microphone close to the speaker often sounds better than an expensive microphone across the room.
- **Lavalier:** place it securely near the upper chest and keep clothing, jewelry and hair from rubbing against it.
- **Desk/broadcast mic:** bring it close enough to favor the voice without blocking the speaker or creating distracting plosives.
- **Camera mic:** useful for ambience or backup, but distance from the speaker usually means more room noise.

2. FIX THE ROOM BEFORE FIXING THE SOFTWARE

- Turn off fans, TVs, unnecessary HVAC, buzzing lights and other noise you can control.
- Soft furnishings, curtains, rugs and filled rooms can reduce harsh reflections compared with large bare spaces.
- Keep microphones away from speakers whenever possible to reduce feedback and echo.
- Listen for traffic, refrigerators, computers and other sounds that your brain may ignore but the microphone will not.

3. SET LEVELS WITH REAL SPEECH

Have the person speak at the volume they will actually use on stream. A quiet "test, test" is not enough if they become much louder once the show starts.

- Watch the meter while listening through headphones.
- Leave room for laughter, excitement and louder moments instead of setting normal speech right at the limit.
- If the signal is distorted before it reaches OBS, lowering the OBS fader may make it quieter but will not repair the distortion.
- Avoid chasing one exact meter number for every situation; microphone type, routing and program material matter.

4. KNOW WHAT EACH AUDIO SOURCE IS DOING

Source	Question to ask
Voice microphone	Is it clear, close and free of rubbing/noise?
Game/computer audio	Can I still understand the speaker during loud moments?
Music/video playback	Is it supporting the show or competing with speech?
Remote guest	Are we accidentally sending their own voice back to them?
Camera microphones	Do I actually need these live, or are they creating duplicate/roomy audio?

5. HEADPHONES ARE PART OF THE SYSTEM

- Do not trust meters alone. A meter cannot tell you that a lav is rubbing against a shirt or a guest has an echo.
- Listen before going live and periodically during longer productions.
- When possible, have someone monitor the outgoing program audio rather than only listening to the room.
- Check the stream from a second device, but prevent that device from feeding delayed audio back into the microphones.

6. COMMON AUDIO PROBLEMS

Echo or doubled voice: Look for duplicate microphones, open camera audio, speaker feedback, or a remote return/routing problem.

Voice is too quiet: Check mic distance and the signal earlier in the chain before simply pushing every software fader higher.

Voice sounds crunchy/distorted: Check whether the microphone, transmitter, receiver, interface or mixer is clipping before OBS.

Background noise is overwhelming: Improve placement and environment first. Noise processing can help, but aggressive processing can also damage the voice.

Audio disappears unexpectedly: Check battery/power, cable connection, wireless status, source selection and mute state in a consistent order.

7. WIRELESS MIC HABITS

- Start with fresh/charged batteries and know the expected runtime.
- Secure transmitters and cables so movement does not pull connectors loose.
- Do a real walk-and-talk test in the actual production area before relying on a wireless system.
- Keep a backup audio plan for important productions. Wireless convenience does not eliminate failure points.

THE 60-SECOND AUDIO CHECK

- Speak normally, then loudly, into every active microphone.
- Listen through headphones for noise, rubbing, echo and distortion.
- Play the loudest game/music/video content you expect and confirm speech remains understandable.
- Mute every source that is not intentionally part of the show.
- Check the outgoing stream on another device.
- Confirm backup batteries/cables or a fallback microphone are available when the stream matters.

WHERE PROFESSIONAL ROUTING STARTS

Multi-person shows, remote guests, mixers, wireless systems, separate monitor mixes, embedded camera audio and multi-computer productions can create routing and sync problems that are unique to the system. That is where a custom signal-flow plan saves time and prevents live surprises.

LET US BUILD THE AUDIO AROUND YOUR STREAM.

FUNKYGENE can configure microphones, wireless systems, OBS routing, monitoring, cameras and playback as one workflow - then test it with you before the first live broadcast.