

Information About Personal Technology in the  
Telecommunication Studies Program  
Youngstown State University, January 1, 2016

You should have some basic tools by the time you reach sophomore-level courses: headphones, a stopwatch, and recording media.

**1. Headphones.** The Sennheiser HD 202 represent a value at about \$30:

[http://reviews.cnet.com/headphones/sennheiser-hd-202/4505-7877\\_7-20656466.html](http://reviews.cnet.com/headphones/sennheiser-hd-202/4505-7877_7-20656466.html)

The gold standard for serious users is the Sony MDR-V6 (about \$60) or the Sennheiser HD-25-SP for about \$130 or Beats Studio 2.0 for about \$250. Look online at:

[http://www.epinions.com/review/Sony\\_MDR\\_V6\\_Professional\\_Headphones/content\\_493986090628](http://www.epinions.com/review/Sony_MDR_V6_Professional_Headphones/content_493986090628)  
[http://www.epinions.com/reviews/Sennheiser\\_HD25SP\\_Consumer\\_Headphones](http://www.epinions.com/reviews/Sennheiser_HD25SP_Consumer_Headphones)

**2. Stopwatch.** Stopwatches for use in studios, editing rooms and on field shoots need to be easy to read and easy to operate. Cell phone timers are inadequate for this application. The Ultrak 1000 (analog) is highly regarded for about \$75. Look online here:

[http://www.3tailer.com/ultrak-1000-mechanical-stopwatch?utm\\_medium=cse&utm\\_source=google&gclid=CNPtzsCpgrkCFSJIMgod3TQA6Q](http://www.3tailer.com/ultrak-1000-mechanical-stopwatch?utm_medium=cse&utm_source=google&gclid=CNPtzsCpgrkCFSJIMgod3TQA6Q)

Digital stopwatches are very inexpensive, but can be unreliable and noisy. So check the online reviews. Look here:

<http://www.sportscounters.com/stopwatches>

**3-a. Recording media: USB Flash.** Available everywhere, but try to stay with name brands. Look here:

[http://www.epinions.com/Flash\\_Memory--usb\\_flash\\_drive](http://www.epinions.com/Flash_Memory--usb_flash_drive)

You probably will record video on our department's camcorders. (Course materials fees are used to buy new equipment -- and to repair existing equipment -- in our audio labs and TV studio.) You will need your personal media. The older format is MiniDV, and the new format is SDHC.

**3-b. Recording media: MiniDV.** MiniDV recordings are **Standard Definition (SD)**; **they are no longer supported as a professional format.**

**3-c. Recording media: SDHC.** These flash memory cards are physically very small. The

JVC GY-HM100 cameras<sup>1</sup> record **ONLY** on SDHC cards rated at **CLASS 6 or higher, ONLY** in HD, and **ONLY** in 16x9 aspect ratio. SDHC/CLASS 6 are hard to find locally. Choose **at least** 16GB, Class 6, for about \$11, plus shipping. Look here:

[http://www.bestbuy.com/site/sandisk-32gb-ultra-sdhc-class-10-ush-1-memory-card-black/4678403.p?id=1219797095504&skuld=4678403&ref=06&loc=01&ci\\_src=14110944&ci\\_sku=4678403&extensionType=pla:g&s\\_kwid=PTC!pla!!!103813135719!g!!81402194079&kpid=4678403&k\\_clickid=cd6180aa-098b-419f-8ff4-d88409b06acc&lsft=ref:212,loc:1&ksid=cd6180aa-098b-419f-8ff4-d88409b06acc&ksprof\\_id=14&ksaffcode=pg8189&ksdevice=c](http://www.bestbuy.com/site/sandisk-32gb-ultra-sdhc-class-10-ush-1-memory-card-black/4678403.p?id=1219797095504&skuld=4678403&ref=06&loc=01&ci_src=14110944&ci_sku=4678403&extensionType=pla:g&s_kwid=PTC!pla!!!103813135719!g!!81402194079&kpid=4678403&k_clickid=cd6180aa-098b-419f-8ff4-d88409b06acc&lsft=ref:212,loc:1&ksid=cd6180aa-098b-419f-8ff4-d88409b06acc&ksprof_id=14&ksaffcode=pg8189&ksdevice=c)

**Video editors.** If you record projects on YSU cameras, you probably will cut (edit) them on YSU computers. We use AVID EXPRESS and FINAL CUT PRO (FCP). AVID and Final Cut are the gold standard for video editing, like Steinway and Baldwin are the worldwide standard for concert grand pianos. But frankly, you can learn your craft on most any video editor like you can build piano skills on most any brand of piano. Look here for a review of popular, inexpensive editors:

<http://video-editing-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>

The “Buying Guide Video” provides a good introduction, but beware: no editing software will have you making professional-level video without training, study and practice.

**Tripod.** If you shoot with your own camera, be sure to have a tripod. Entry-level tripods are not expensive, but they make a huge difference in the quality of your work. B&H Photo in New York is a top-quality retailer:

[http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/247938-REG/Sunpak\\_620020\\_2001UT\\_Tripod.html](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/247938-REG/Sunpak_620020_2001UT_Tripod.html)

**Microphones.** You should use “onboard” microphones only for “wild” or natural sound, not for people who are being interviewed. Here is a value-priced lavalier:

[http://www.amazon.com/Audio-Technica-ATR-35S-Lavalier-Microphone/dp/B00006I51V/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1274122455&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Audio-Technica-ATR-35S-Lavalier-Microphone/dp/B00006I51V/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1274122455&sr=8-1)

**Lights.** You should also use a quartz/florescent light. Durable light kits are expensive, so you should use one from the Department.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.pro.jvc.com/pro/attributes/CAMERA/clips/itspossible.html>