

# Recording For and Loading MV Audio Players (and other devices)

by Ross Webb

In a word, it's a breeze... in a gusty sort of way. But let's see how easy we can make it.

## Content & how to get it

MegaVoice has a lot on their *audio cloud*, there is a lot of audio out there on the net (like songs and podcasts and sermons etc), or you can record your own.

Since the most challenging option is to **record your own**, let's see just how easy it can be...

1. Got your material organised? Good.
2. Got a reader than can do it justice. If you haven't, get him or her practicing! Good.
3. Now, start recording... how do I do that?!

## Recording

1. NOTE: There is no need to be too precious about the recording process. None of the (free!) advice below could be construed as 'professional', but it is quite adequate. With current technology the simplest of setups can give great results. Especially with a bit of experimentation.
2. You can **record** using a program on your computer, or using a Digital Voice Recorder (DVR)
  - a. It is best to record small sections at a time – even as short as a sentence. This depends on how good the reader is.
  - b. It is good to have a person following what the reader is reading – to check that he's not missing something or changing the text in some way, or even reading with the wrong intonation.
3. Your **studio** can be any old room, not too big. The 'deader' the better – if there is too much echo, it might be intrusive. You can put up mattresses or blankets if the (test) recordings sound too echoey for your liking. A totally echo-free recording is probably best – you can always add judicious amounts of reverb for effect.
4. Buy a **headset** of reasonable quality (\$50) that has a microphone.
  - a. Buy a USB headset for use on a computer, or one with standard plugs for a DVR.
  - b. Check the "self" noise. Some mics produce their own hiss. This isn't a plus!
  - c. A headset keeps the mic always at the correct distance from the reader's mouth
  - d. Adjust the mic boom so that it is around chin level rather than directly in line with the mouth – this avoids puffs of air in the recording.
  - e. Make some tests until you are satisfied.

An alternate to a headset is a desktop mic – it is probably easier to find good quality versions of these . Read a review like [this](#), and take your pick!

5. The **record level** should be about 75% of maximum. If you have the level set too low, other noises can enter the recording. This is not crucial – just avoid having a distorted overloaded recording. You can work that out...
6. Encourage the readers to **keep re-recording** the current sentence (or section) until they get it right. (I call this 'self editing') That's why recording short pieces is better. And this way you don't have to do editing of all the mistakes later. There are other ways to do this, and you can work out what works best for you.
7. Finally listen through all the recordings in sequence to make sure they are all good.
8. Organise your material in different folders – one for each 'chapter'.

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- a. Each 'chapter' will be made up of those recorded sentence or paragraph files.
- b. The individual files should have a **3 digit sequence number** in front of whatever you are calling them, like 001 test, 002 test, 003 test etc.
- c. If you are clever, you can join all those files into one chapter, but it may not matter.
9. The most important thing is getting the recording done to your satisfaction. MegaVoice or some savvy friend can join the files and organise them for a particular use when the time comes – but keeping track of your recordings is essential!

## Publishing Possibilities

1. Once you have your recordings, you can use them in many different ways.
  - a. Put them on a CD
  - b. Put them on an MP3 player
  - c. Put them on a flash drive for use in a cheap audio player that takes a flash drive.
  - d. Put them on micro SD cards for use in mobile phones (even just about the simplest of phones)
  - e. Put them on the MV "Sender" for plugging into smart phones
  - f. SIL has a program called the Scripture App Builder which you can use to distribute your text and audio together. The text is highlighted as the audio reads... This is not that tricky to set up! Investigate if you are interested. Google SIL Scripture App Builder (SAB)
  - g. Put them on any of the MV audio players.
2. Put your audio material on any of those 'media' I listed above, and send them out there to range free!
3. MV Envoy players have the wonderful capacity of being 'dual track' – so you can have a song book worth of songs on one track and Scripture on the other, or a diglot audio Bible – two different language Bibles, or Scripture audio on one track and commentary material on the other that can even keep in sync with the other track to some extent, or a Bible on one track and sermons organised by Bible book on the other, or, or, or, or... the possibilities are endless.
4. If you live in close proximity to your audience, you don't have to wait to complete all your audio recordings. Load them on to players (or whatever) and put them out there with the promise to update with new material at intervals – of course the 'media' needs to be returned to you. But for instance, you would just plug ten returned players into your USB hub, press the button on Saber Copy and voila! Once setup, this is so easy!
5. Publish audio and text together for smart phones using SIL's Scripture App Builder. Just about anything you can think of is possible – long text, short text with pictures, or whatever.

## Publishing Nitty Gritty

1. For the simpler publishing options like CD, MP3, SD cards, and MV Sender, your audio files organised into folders will probably be adequate. Just copy the folder directly from your computer to any of these media.
  1. To copy to multiple of the media at once look below to the **MULTIPLE** word.
2. Copying to a MegaVoice audio device is a little trickier... but not hard to get the hang of.
  - a. The trickiest part is getting the audio named as MV requires, and into the folder structure that MV requires. Get the MV documentation for the player you want to use (StoryTeller or Envoy) and work at getting it right – or get someone with a bit more of a logical bent to help you :)

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- b. You then fire up (after downloading) the loading program called Saber Copy. This program is very flexible, but not the most intuitive in the world. Once you have it licked though, it will serve you wonderfully: it let's you copy to multiply players, or multiple SD cards.
  - a. **MULTIPLE** is the operative word – with Saber Copy on your computer, you are ready to go... but you can only copy to as many audio players at once as you have USB ports on your computer.
  - b. The way to beat this limitation is to purchase a **USB hub** that has up to 10 USB slots. With 10 slots you can copy 10 audio players at once. Saber Copy even whistles when it has finished copying them all so you can walk away...
- c. Download and read the Saber Copy documentation from the MV website. You will get an extra piece of documentation that tells you how to set it up for the various types of MV players.

I promise you – get the hang of this (and truly, it is not that hard – though with a bit of money and a spare programmer MV could make it even easier!) – get the hang of this, and you will never look back!