



# QUICK VOICE OVER GUIDE FOR ENGINEERING

Fast and to the point guide to sweeten your sound

## 1 POP FILTER

Pop filters are simple screens that go in front of your microphone and help to reduce popping sounds that can occur when you say words that begin with P or B. Pops can be especially distracting in voice-over work, and a pop filter can make a big difference in the quality of your recordings. Pop filters are relatively inexpensive and can be found online or at your local music store.

## 2 CORRECT MIC POSITION

The position of your microphone can have a big impact on the quality of your recordings. You'll want to position your microphone so that it's close enough to capture your voice clearly, but not so close that you hear every breath and mouth sound. A good rule of thumb is to position your microphone about six inches away from your mouth and slightly off to the side. This will help to reduce plosives and other unwanted noises, while still capturing your voice clearly.

## 3 RECORDING ENVIRONMENT

The environment you record in can also have a big impact on the quality of your recordings. Ideally, you'll want to record in a quiet room with good acoustics. If you're recording from home, try to find a room with minimal background noise and some soft furnishings to absorb sound. You can also invest in some acoustic foam or blankets to help reduce echo and reverb.

## 4 NOISE GATE

If you're recording in an environment with some background noise, you can use a noise gate to help reduce unwanted sounds. A noise gate is a software tool that mutes your microphone when it detects sounds below a certain threshold. This can be especially helpful if you're recording in a noisy environment, like a busy street or a room with a loud air conditioner. Most recording software includes a noise gate feature, so be sure to explore your options.

\* there are very very few noise gates I enjoy hearing. Most clip the voice and it sounds robotic. I like Izotope's noise gate the best but every industry pro will have their favorite. If you can get by without using one at all, the better!

## 5 EQ

Equalization, or EQ, is a process that adjusts the balance of frequencies in your recording. By adjusting the EQ of your voice, you can make it sound more clear, crisp, and professional. Most recording software includes an EQ tool, so play around with the settings until you find a sound that works for you. Generally, you'll want to boost the mid-range frequencies of your voice and reduce any frequencies that sound harsh or nasally.

Normalization and compression are good when you've trained your engineering ear. Need more suggestions? Call me!