

Mobile Reporting

A lot of time could be saved by producing a complete radio programme with one single device (starting from recording to cutting and broadcasting). With a smartphone or tablet this possibility theoretically exists. In practice, however, a laptop or PC is often required, particularly during the postproduction of audio recordings, or if you want to realize more complex programmes. Hence, making radio with a smartphone or tablet is possible, albeit limited.

In the majority of cases, apps focus on the audio recording functions. However, when it comes to audio cutting, the possibilities are rather restricted, especially if you would like to work with several tracks.

So called »audio apps« will be further developed in the years to come. Meanwhile, we offer you a short overview of the functions a »mobile-reporting app« should ideally include.

Check List for the Ideal App

- Recording quality available in various formats, e.g., WAV, MP3 (320 Kbit)
- Level recorder and level display
- Monitor
- Editing (e.g., cut, copy, paste, append, undo, redo, amplify)
- Export (e.g., send link via email, WIFI download, drop box)
- User-friendly menus
- Clear and user-friendly multitrack editor
- Stability and regular updates offered by developers
- Reasonable cost-benefit ratio

Levelling

Levelling means to adapt the recording volume, which is indicated on the display.

Monitor

The monitor allows you to listen while recording. Only few apps offer this function.

Append (to another recording)

To append simply means to add. This is a really simple form of audio cutting in which recordings are simply ›glued together‹.

Amplify

Volume adaptation during postproduction.

WIFI download or WIFI transfer

App allows downloading of recordings to WLAN.

Multitrack editor

A multitrack editor offers the possibility to arrange several tracks, e.g. if you want to integrate music recordings.

TIPS FOR THE CREATION**Keep it simple**

Basically, mobile reporting is rather recommended for simple radio programmes; more complicated ones can easier be edited on the PC/lap top.

Stick to your concept

The smaller the display, the harder the audio cutting process will be. Hence, in order to keep the postproduction as short as possible, plan and structure your programme in advance.

Export to laptop/PC

It is advisable to record with the smartphone/tablet but to cut with the laptop. If convenient, you can use export functions such as »WIFI transfer« or »WIFI download«: When smartphone and laptop are connected to the same WLAN, files can easily be transferred wirelessly.

TIPS FOR AUDIO RECORDING

Find mike on smartphone/tablet

The microphone is often located at the bottom of the phone. If there are several mikes, make sure which one is activated.

Deactivate automatic phone lock

Most standard settings automatically lock phones after a short period of time. Deactivate lock during recording.

Come as close as possible

Microphones are not optimised for audio recording, hence keep the distance as low as possible.

Activate flight mode

The smartphone/tablet should not work as a phone but as a recording device. Phone calls and SMS are blocked in the flight mode.

Use earphones

Very few apps offer a monitor that allows listening. Via earphones you can nevertheless check the recording.

Careful: Avoid touching the device

When smartphones/tablets are touched or moved, they easily produce background noise.

Use windshields when recording outside

Since phone mikes are very sensitive, make sure to use a windshield at windy sites.

List of Recommendable Apps:¹

01 Hi-Q MP3 Voice Recorder (Android) by Audiophile

Very good audio recorder with export functions / no editing tools

Recording quality: WAV, MP3, OGG, FLAC

Export: WIFI download / drop box

Other: Level recorder, export with WIFI transfer / no monitor

Price: Free version² / Full version 3.59€

02 Voice Record Pro (iOS) by Dayana Networks Ltd.

Audio recorder with extensive export functions / editing tools

Recording quality: WAV, MP3, MP4

Export: e.g., WIFI download / FTP / drop box / Soundcloud

Other: e.g., level recorder, trim, append, converter / no monitor

Price: Free version³ / Full version 1.99€

03 Twisted Wave Editor (iOS) by Thomas Thiriez

Very intuitive, user-friendly app / includes many features

Recording quality: WAV, MP3, FLAC, AIFF, AAC

Export: e.g., FTP / drop box / mail a link

Other: e.g., monitor, level recorder, undo, redo, amplify

Price: Full version 9.99€

04 Lexis Audio Editor (Android) by pamsys Tools

Comprehensive app with quality editor / editing tools

Recording quality: WAV, MP3, FLAC, WMA

Export: Mail a link / FTP

Other: good editing tools, menus are somehow awkward

Price: Free version⁴ / Full version 4.94€

05 WavePad (Android and iOS) from NCH Software

Many-sided app with good editing tools / few export functions

Recording quality: WAV, MP3 (128 Kbit)⁵

Export: Mail

Other: Quality editing tools, level display is a little small

Price: Free version / Full version⁶ 3.49€ (Android) / 1.99€ (iOS)

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²Recording time is limited to 10 minutes (for each recording).

³The only difference is that the Free Version includes advertising.

⁴Free Version does not allow export to MP3.

⁵ Only in the Full version.

⁶Notice that recording is possible only into the format MP3 with a sample rate of 128 kBit.