

DIGITAL RECORDER AND TRANSCRIBING

It has been a while since I've seen anything about digital recorders and transcription. The archives show 2009 discussions.

Anyway I am looking into a digital recorder to use for interviews, dictation, uploading to PC and sending for transcription. Does anyone have suggestions or recommendations?

Digital dictation upgrades are my specialty. You have options.

Do you dictate now?

If so, do you use a recorder with a slide switch?

Who's doing the transcribing? (and by that I mean will it be staying "in house" or will you be sending it over the internet - either to someone who is "in house" or a service)?

What is your budget?

On a scale of 1-10 - what is your tech comfort level?

Once I have the answers (and feel free to send them to me off list) - I can narrow down your choices and give you costs.

-- NotanAtty--

Andrea Cannavina

I recently bought Varriale a mid-priced Sony recorder at Staples. It has a USB attached, so you have the option of putting the entire unit into the USB drive or using a USB wire connection. Varriale is pretty old skool and he learned pretty quickly. The software is very user friendly and he was able to send the .wav files to our VP out in Michigan with no problem.

Jeena R. Belil, New York

Jenna Belil, do you happen to remember the model number/name of the mid-priced Sony recorder that you purchased?
Thanks for your email message to the group!

Roberta Fay, California

It's the ICD-UX-512

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<http://tinyurl.com/42qlyst>

Jeena R. Belil

"The software is very user friendly and he was able to send the .wav files to our VP out in Michigan with no problem."

That's a biggie there: who will be on the receiving end? My Olympus DS-5000 is nice but it sends it in an Olympus-only format. So your transcriber would have to have an Olympus setup on the other end. .wav files are probably what you want if they are going to civilians. But, for that kind of stuff i use Dictadroid or Tape-a-talk Pro off my Droid phone (thank you pma tip of the week).

I really like the T-a-T-Pro because as soon as I'm done dictating, it asks if I want to send it dropbox, gmail, email, text, etc. Now, that the McCritters are getting phones, I hardly ever forget to give them "gentle reminders".

Talk with Cannavina: she knows her dictation.

Kindly,
Jimmy McMullan, Alabama

Your smartphone will do it.

Steve O'Donnell, Pennsylvania

This is funny because I was talking to my wife (dang that sounds weird) about it yesterday. If we use a digital recorder we don't violate our Cell phone laws here while driving. However, if we use our cell phone as a recorder we can if we hold it. You can use a hands free wired kit but then if the cop catches you setting it up while driving you'd be in trouble still.

Joseph D. Dang, California

"I was talking to my wife (dang that sounds weird)"

Joseph, you're a newlywed of course, you're supposed to still talk to her.

Congratulations,
Jimmy Mac

I have a Philips Digital Pocket Memo. It works wonderfully and my secretary transcribes it. Apparently we can buy Dragon full version and it will do the transcription if I train it. It is designed to be a dictation instrument for those of us who are long of tooth and can't figure out new gadgets. Before this I bought an expensive Sony that I saw at an ABA tech show. It looked wonderful and did all sorts of things. The problem was that I couldn't make it work. It was at that point that I decided that I was old.

Marc S. Stern, Washington

I use a couple of the low end Olympus recorders (ws-100). I find the quality excellent even when placed in the middle of a conference table to capture multiple voices. There are fancier models and you just have to choose your price point.

If you're going to do dictation, then you'll need a slide switch model (\$\$\$). If you'll just be using it to capture depositions and such, then skip the slide switch. The slide switch technology adds greatly to the price.

On the Olympus models I have, they don't use the proprietary format and you can transfer the files easily. And I really like that the USB plug is incorporated into the body of the device.

Roger Traversa, Pennsylvania

Andrea,

How do you feel about the Smart Pen? We think it's amazing, the clarity is great even with multiple parties speaking.

Joi Aberle, New York

I would love to try to transcribe a file from a smart pen. I know Tony C. was using one for a while, but not for transcription purposes.

I'm not even sure what file types they create.

Have you ever had need of transcription of one of the audio files from your smart pen?

-- NotanAtty--

Andrea Cannavina
