Creating a Podcast in GarageBand '08

By David Schubert

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About the Author

My name is David Schubert and I am the Technology Coordinator at J. Michael Conley School @ SouthWood. I am an Information Technology major at Florida State University. I can be contacted via email at david.schubert@gmail.com with questions about this tutorial. Please also visit my interactive resume at www.davidschubert.net.

Introduction

This manual is a supplement to the instructional video, "How to Create a Podcast in GarageBand '08", available online at www.davidschubert.net. The purpose of this resource is to outline the steps necessary to create a podcast or other audio recording using the GarageBand software. Although the tutorial was developed for teachers who are interested in creating podcasts in their classrooms, the procedure should work for other users and more recreational purposes.

Required Materials

Most of the required materials are built in to modern Apple computers; a modern Apple computer with GarageBand '08 installed should suffice for this tutorial.

The hardware and software components and materials that will be used include:

1. A modern Apple computer running the latest version of the Mac OS X operating system

2. The built-in iSight camera

3. The built-in computer microphone

4. GarageBand '08 software (part of the iLife '08 software suite)

5. Photo Booth software (bundled with the Mac OS X operating system)

6. Podcast script (previously created)

Procedure

Step 1: Create the Podcast Artwork

1. Begin by opening the Photo Booth software. On most Mac OS installations, a shortcut to Photo Booth is available on the Dock at the bottom of the screen. If it is not shown there, click the Finder icon, navigate to Applications, find the Photo Booth icon, and double-click it.

Figure 1: Photo Booth Icon   **Figure 2: Finder Icon**

2. Adjust the monitor or your position so that your picture is centered in the Photo Booth window.

3. Smile and click the red and white camera button. The program will count down from three, then flash and take your picture. Your photograph will appear at the bottom of the window.

4. Close the program by clicking the red circle in the upper left corner of the window.

Figure 3: Photo Booth window

Step 2: Create the GarageBand File

1. Open the GarageBand program. If its icon is not on your Dock, find it in the Applications folder in the Finder.

Figure 4: Garage Band icon   Figure 5: Create New Podcast option

2. In the window that appears, choose the option labeled "Create New Podcast Episode".

3. In the window that appears, type a name for the Garage Band file in the "Save As:" box. Click the "Create" button at the bottom of the window to continue.

    a. The "Garage Band file" is an editable file that can only be read by the Garage Band program. When you are finished you will export an AAC file that anyone can play but no one can edit.

4. After creating your project from the Podcast template, the Garage Band window will open. The template includes four tracks and opens the media browser to the "Photos" tab.

Step 3: Insert the Podcast Artwork

1. In the media browser, click "Photo Booth" to see the photographs available in the Photo Booth library. Find the picture of yourself taken previously and drag it to the square labeled "Drag Episode Artwork Here".

2. Click the button labeled "Add Marker" to add the artwork to the beginning of your audio file. Check the box labeled "Displays Artwork" and drag your picture to the "Artwork" column in the chapter list.
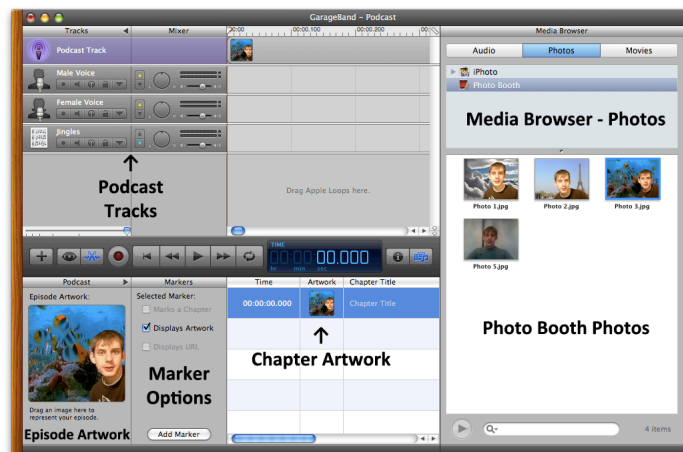

Figure 6: Garage Band window

Step 4: Record the Podcast

1. Find the previously created podcast script and read over it several times to gain familiarity.

2. Click inside the dark gray portion of the appropriate voice track (male or female).

3. Press the red "Record" button to begin recording the track.

4. Speak loudly and clearly into the microphone.

   a. The location of the built-in microphone varies depending on which type of computer you are using. Generally speaking, the microphone will pick up your voice if you are facing the monitor and speaking at a normal to loud volume.

5. When finished, press the Play button to end the recording.

6. Preview the recording by pressing the "Go to the beginning" button to rewind the track, and then pressing the "Play" button again.

Step 5: Export the Finished Podcast

1. When you have previewed the podcast and are happy with the results, it is time to *export* to a format that other people can play on their computers.

2. In the menu at the top of the screen, click Share → Export Podcast to Disk.

3. In the window that appears, click the Export button.

4. Choose a location to save the file, and then click "Save".

Congratulations! You have created your first podcast! See the "Additional Resources" section for more information, such as advanced editing techniques and how to publish your podcast to the Internet.

Additional Resources

There are podcasting resources all over the Internet, accessible through a simple Google search. I have aggregated a list of resources that I found to be informative and easy to understand.

1. GarageBand 3 – Creating a Podcast, Pennsylvania State University
   This tutorial covers some advanced editing techniques.
   http://podcasts.psu.edu/files/GarageBandPodcast.pdf

2. GarageBand Support – Recording Your Podcast, Apple Support
   This web page discusses how to plan for a podcast.
   http://www.apple.com/support/garageband/podcasts/recording/

3. GarageBand Quick Tutorial, Wikibooks
   Similar to the Penn State tutorial; covers some advanced editing techniques.
   http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Garageband_Quick_Tutorial

4. Introduction to GarageBand, Wikiversity
   This article gives an overview of video podcasting with GarageBand
   http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Introduction_to_GarageBand

5. GarageBand (Podcast Track), YouTube
   Video that illustrates the GarageBand Podcast track
   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-P8gwvhsr8