

Field Recording Guide

1. Set up while camera and/or lights are setting up, not after.
2. Rehearse recording when camera rehearses shot.
 - Note microphone movements.
 - Watch for microphone shadows.
 - Be aware of background noise.
3. Discuss any problems with camera operator and director. Always consider how the sound will be edited.
4. Position microphone as close to subject as possible, especially during essential dialogue.
5. If a sync dialogue scene is intended to be shot “wide” only, request a medium shot or close-up “for audio”.
Or
Use hidden lavalier (lapel) mikes.
6. Listen to the sound on headphones during recording and be alert for odd or unwanted background noises.
7. Record any non-sync effects at the end of each scene – (doors closing, cars starting/stopping..or any other useful sound effect.
8. Record an atmosphere track (thirty to sixty seconds) at the end of shooting at each location.

An extra fifteen minutes spent securing quality location sound can save hours of post production sound editing.

Sync = must be closely synchronised with the picture; e.g. dialogue shot so that the movement of the lips in synchrony with the speech is obvious.

Non-Sync = not necessarily closely synchronised with the picture.