

How to Submit Audio to SPS

1. Record your first chapter using whatever recording process works for you.
 - a. To ensure podcast consistency, the length of your recording should not exceed 15 minutes.
 - b. If your first chapter exceeds 15 minutes in recorded length, please find a natural breaking point before the 15-minute maximum and end your recording there.
2. Ensure your final audio file meets the following criteria:
 - a. Minimum 96kbsp, maximum 128kbsp
 - b. Minimum -16db LUFs and -19db LUFs
 - c. MP3 format is preferred (but we can accept m4a, wav, or mpg)
3. Submit file to selfpublishingservices@gmail.com

We use Anchor to create our podcast. An easy way to ensure that your recording meets our standards is to simply use the Anchor app yourself.

1. Download Anchor app (see more details on Anchor.fm)
2. Create an account.
3. Tap any tool to add some audio to your episode.
4. Export the audio.
5. Email exported audio file to selfpublishingservices@gmail.com

Authors who have access to a recording studio may wish to record there, but it is not a requirement. However, audio from in-home recording must be of high enough quality to ensure that the podcast delivers a consistent experience for listeners. Following are recommendations for creating a quality recording.

1. Find a “dead space” in your home. Surfaces that are hard and flat (like bare walls) reflect sound, which shows up on an audio recording as reverberation, or an echo effect. This is the hardest flaw to correct after the audio has been recorded. To minimize reverberation, set up in a space that has plenty of soft surfaces. A carpeted walk-in closet (with clothes) works really well. If you don’t have a walk-in closet, a small or even medium-sized room will work. If you have bookcases, or if you have textile wall hangings (drapes, a decorative rug, etc.), this can help dampen reverberations. You might even hang a blanket on the wall if possible.
2. Use headphones to monitor your recording. If you have a separate mic and headphones, that’s great, but the headphones with the inline mic that come with an iPhone are good enough. Before you start recording, put your headphones on or in and listen to the space. If you hear buzzing, fan noises, or other background noises through the headphones, the recording will pick those sounds up, too. Try to minimize them before you start.
3. If you’re using a separate mic, make sure you stay at a consistent distance from it during the recording. This is especially important if you can’t do your whole recording in one sitting. Also consider positioning yourself at a slight angle to the mic and/or using a pop filter to soften hard consonants.
4. Do a couple of test runs.
5. Consider standing while you record. It gives you more control over your breathing capacity and may feel more natural.

6. Have fun! An audio book is your chance to give nuance to your characters that readers don't necessarily get from words on a page. Put your actual voice to your writing voice, and give listeners an even richer experience with your work.