

COVID-19 AUDIO RECORDING

SMARTPHONE AS MIC/AUDIO INTERFACE

Prepared by Ethan Castro of EDGE Original Inc. (www.edgeoriginal.com)

Hello there! I am your studio recording technician/genie, and I shall assist you in capturing high-quality audio stems at your house with elements you already own!

There are 2-ways we can do this, record **direct to phone**, or record **direct to computer**

I highly recommend recording to computer. However, if you can't, then recording to your phone, then sending an **UNCOMPRESSED FILE: PCM/WAV (.caf)** to the producer to drop in the project is the next best thing!

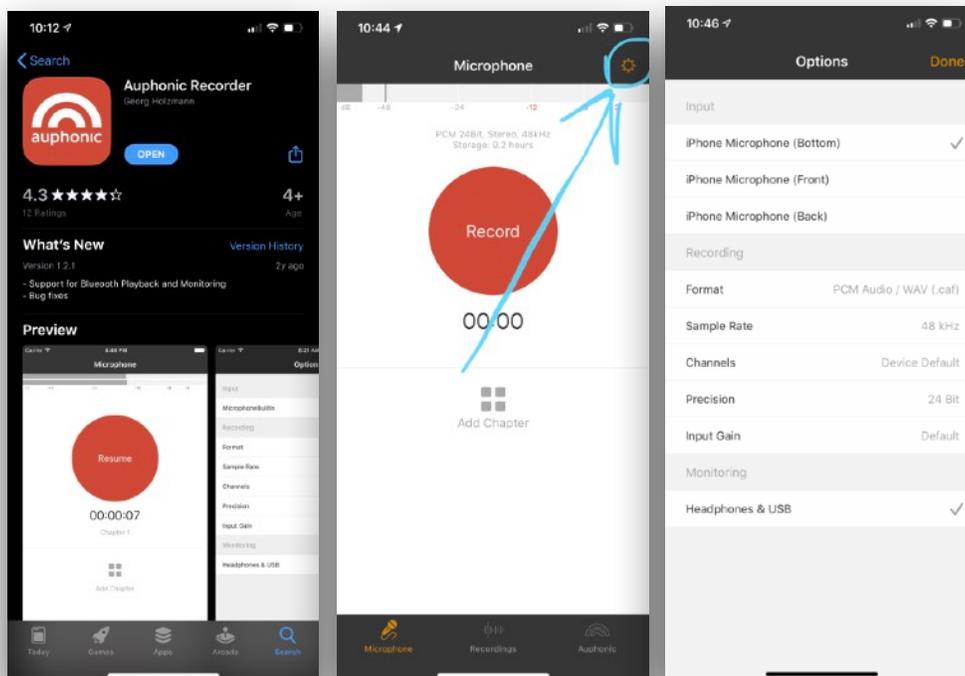
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU RECORD IN UNCOMPRESSED (.CAF) AUDIO, AS RECORDING COMPRESSED (.AAC) INSTANTLY LIMITS WHAT YOUR PRODUCER CAN DO WITH IT ON THEIR END!

You'll need some sort of thin cloth to cover the microphone. I suggest an old t-shirt, or a thin sock! I use the app Auphonic because it's Free, cross-platform, and records WAV.

DIRECT TO PHONE

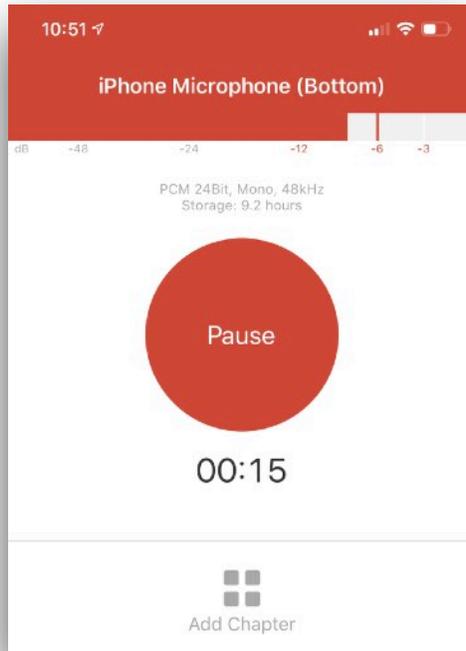
Auphonic Recorder for iOS

1. Download the [Auphonic Recorder](#) from the [App Store](#).
2. Open the app, tap the little gear icon in the top right, and **make sure to confirm that your recording settings are uncompressed WAV format.**



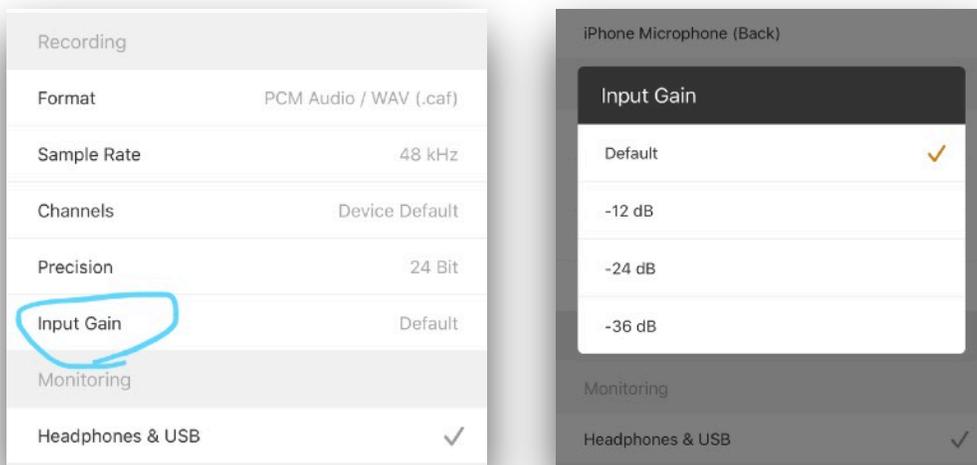
Great! Now you're ready to do a mic-test.

1. Place your phone half an arm's length away, but so you can still see the meter at the top
2. Hit record
3. Perform the loudest passage in the piece you're recording

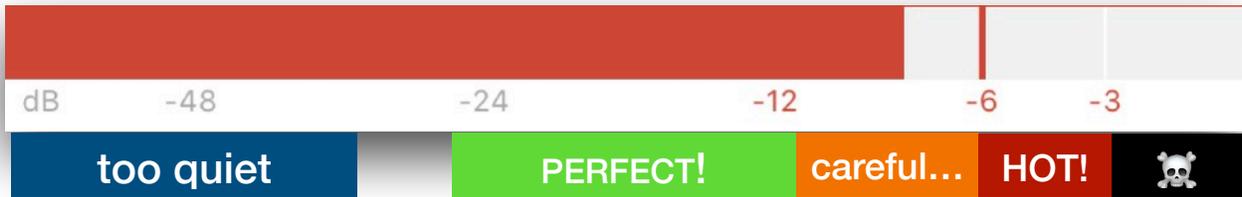


If the meter goes above -6 like in the picture above ^^^^

1. Select another input gain option in the settings:

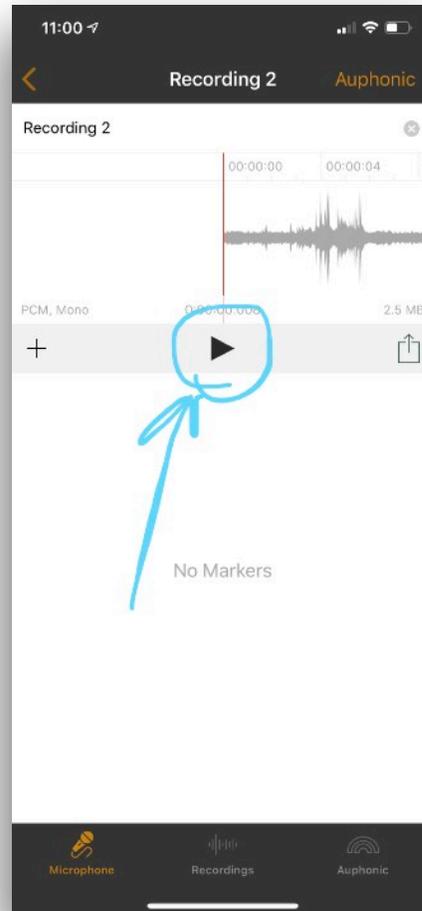
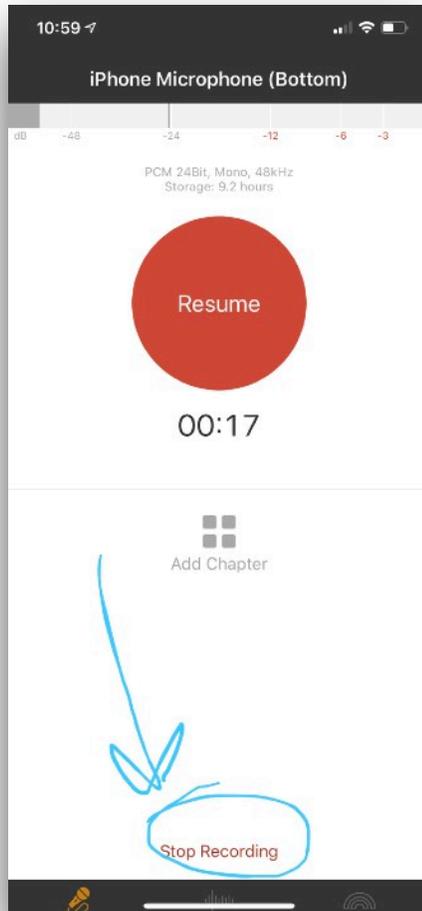


2. Repeat the mic test with a new setting! (likely -24 dB)
3. Ideally you want the bouncing red meter to be around -24 and -12 while you're performing, trying not to reach above -6 for loud sections (*if it peaks up there for a bit, it's ok, it just shouldn't stay there the whole time!*) **IF YOU HIT -3, YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR.**



If everything was good:

1. Hit the big 'pause' button
2. Then touch 'stop recording'
3. You'll be brought to a place where you can playback your recording you just did!



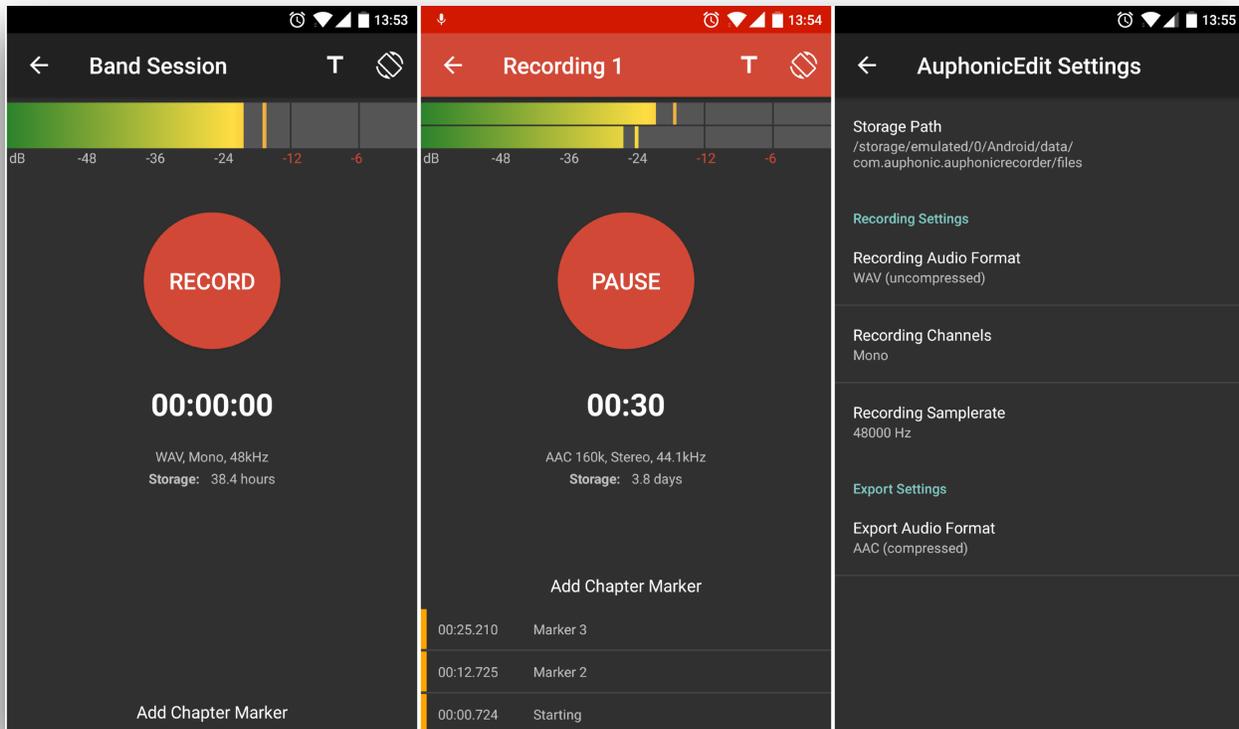
Congrats! You've just done your own mic test, and you're ready to record! I'd highly recommend practicing short sections, so you get used to starting, stopping, and pausing the recording.

****CAUTION****

- ☑ **IT'S VERY IMPORTANT YOU DON'T PAUSE THE RECORDING DURING YOUR FINAL TAKE BECAUSE IT WILL DISRUPT THE CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TIME IN THE RECORDING AND IT WILL NOT SYNC.**
- ☑ **ALSO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPACE ON YOUR PHONE - AT LEAST 1GB AVAILABLE TO RECORD TO.**

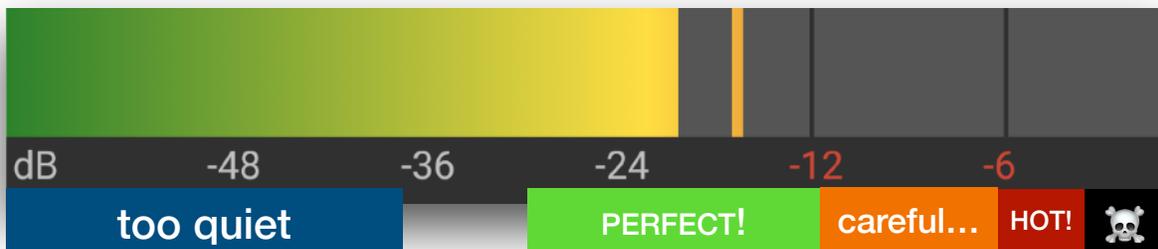
Auphonic Recorder for Android

1. Download [Auphonic Recorder](#) from the [Google Play Store](#)
2. Open the app and confirm the same settings (**WAV**)



Great! Now you're ready to do a mic-test.

1. Place your phone approximately 3 feet away from you but so you can still see the meter at the top
2. Hit record
3. Play your loudest section



4. Ideally you want the bouncing red meter to be around -24 and -12 while you're playing, trying not to reach above -6 for loud sections (*if it peaks up there for a bit, it's ok, it just shouldn't stay there the whole time!*) **IF YOU HIT -3, YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR.**

If everything was good:

1. Hit the big 'pause' button
2. Then touch 'stop recording'

Congrats! You've just done your own mic test, and you're ready to record! I'd highly recommend practicing short sections, so you get used to starting, stopping, and pausing the recording.

****CAUTION****

- IT'S VERY IMPORTANT YOU DON'T PAUSE THE RECORDING DURING YOUR FINAL TAKE BECAUSE IT WILL DISRUPT THE CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TIME IN THE RECORDING AND IT WILL NOT SYNC.**
- ALSO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPACE ON YOUR PHONE OR AN EXTERNAL STORAGE CARD - AT LEAST 1GB AVAILABLE TO RECORD TO.**

Recording Tips

1. Place an old t-shirt, towel, or a thin sock over the microphone (usually bottom) part of your phone as a make-shift '**pop' filter** - it'll prevent you from accidentally overloading the recording (read: distortion) when you perform any sounds with the "PUH" or "BUH" sound.
2. A closet, or other area with a lot of soft/cloth materials **makes the best recording booth**. Bathrooms or hard walls are a no-go. Use the 'clap' method: wait until everything's super quiet, then do a big clap, and see how long it takes for the reverb and echo to die down. More than half a second will likely be too long, unless you want reverb baked into your performance.
3. Use the edge of a table, bunk bed, stack of books on a chair, whatever you can find to secure the phone so you don't have to hold the phone, but if you have to, **make sure not to move the microphone away from the source** if you're holding the phone - I can fix a lot of things - pitch, rhythm, even some timbral items, but I can't fix spinning around while flipping the phone out your window. Keep it at the source!!
4. **Don't be afraid to try again**, or try something new! It's digital audio, we're not paying by the reel anymore. Take your time, try out some stuff, have fun with it!

RECORD STRAIGHT TO THE COMPUTER (ADVANCED)

iPhone on MacOS

(P.S. ALTHOUGH I CAN'T VOUCH FOR ANDROIDS, OR THE PROCESS ON PC, I DID FIND [THIS METHOD](#), BUT PERHAPS USE THE DIRECT TO PHONE METHOD AND TRANSFER TO YOUR COMPUTER INSTEAD - AT YOUR OWN RISK!)

So you think you can record? You think you're a recording engineer? Well you should. Cause you are ;)

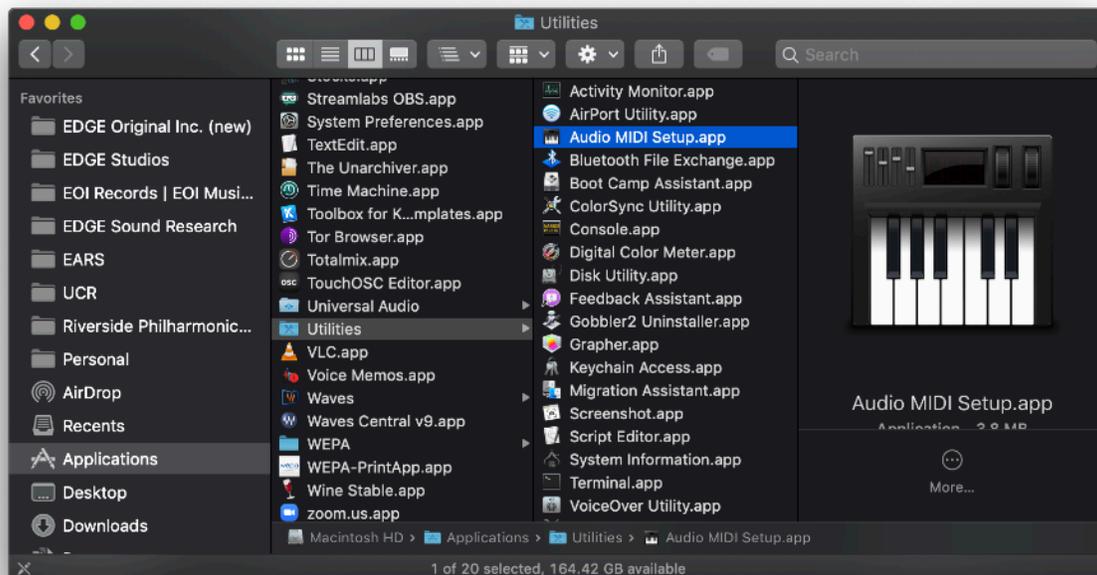
Here's where you can turn your home setup into something resembling a professional setup - **your computer can use your phone as an audio interface**, and take any sound coming out of the phone and stream it right to the computer - digitally.

Here's what you need:

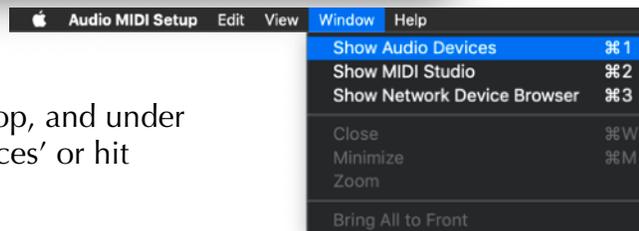
1. iPhone
2. USB Cable (yes, most likely the one you charge your phone with will work as well)
3. A good ol' Macintosh Computer

Ready for this?

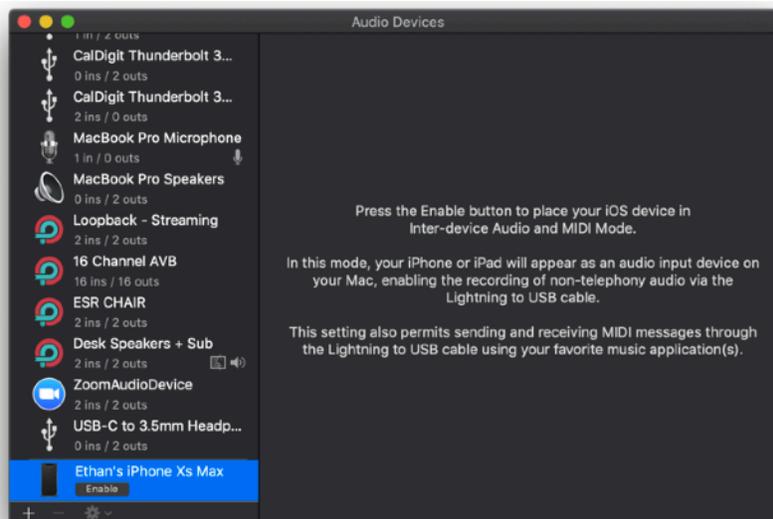
1. Plug iPhone into Computer
2. Go to your applications folder
3. Find a folder called 'Utilities'
4. Open the app called 'Audio MIDI Setup'



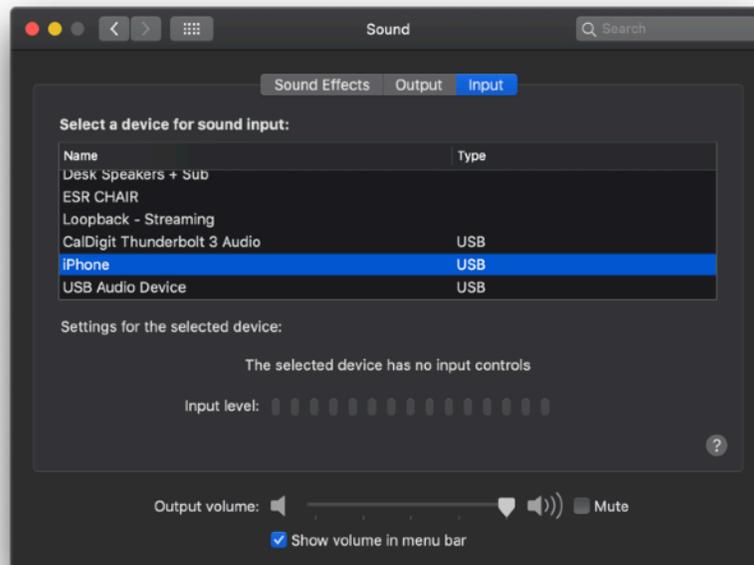
- Alternatively, you can launch Spotlight Search by hitting Command (⌘) + (Spacebar) and just type in 'Audio MIDI Setup'



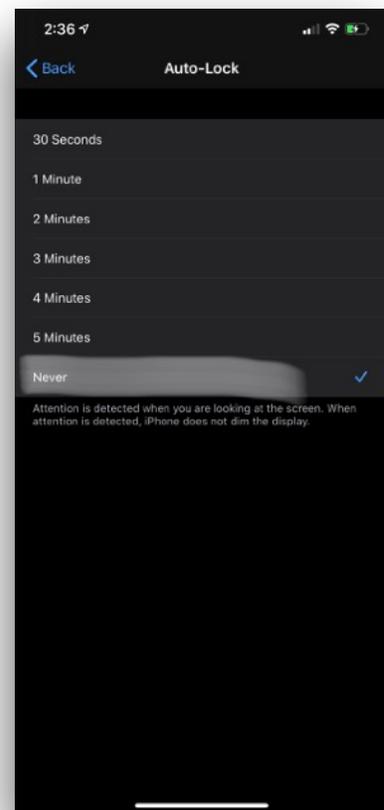
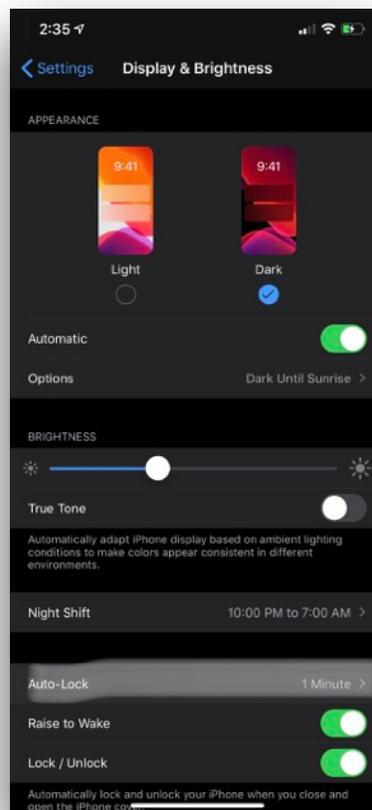
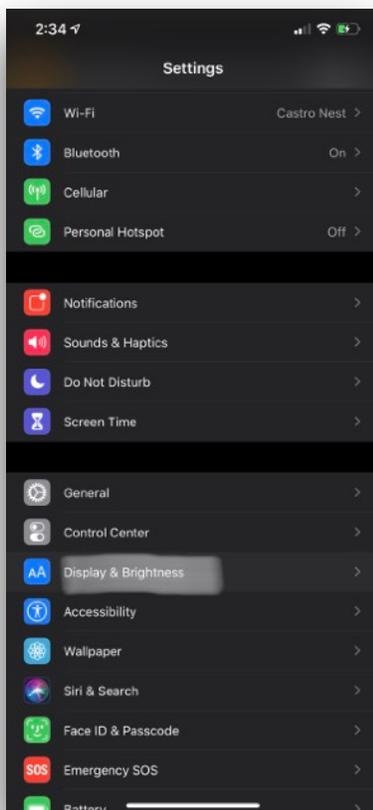
- If you don't see the 'Audio Devices' window, go up to the task bar at the top, and under 'Window' click on 'Show Audio Devices' or hit Command (⌘) + (1)
- Now at the bottom of the list, there should be a small icon of your iPhone with the name of your device next to it, with a small 'enable' button right underneath. (if you don't see this, make sure your phone is unlocked and has your permission to send data to your Mac.
- CLICK IT.



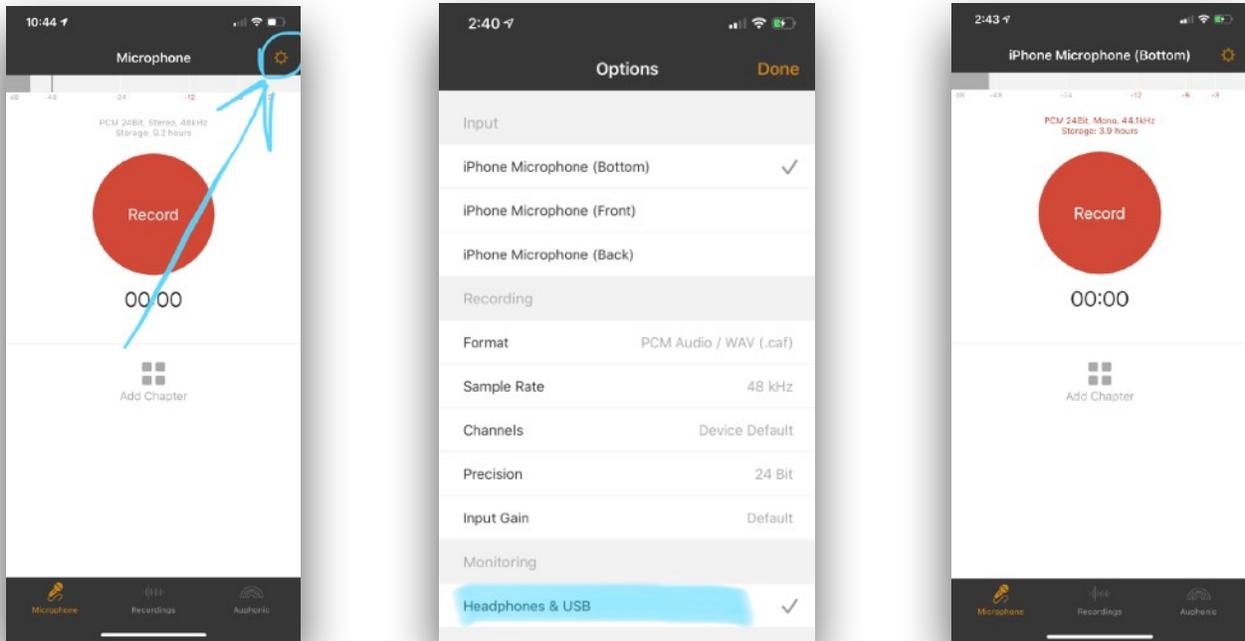
- 9. You'll hear your phone re-connect to your computer (if the volume is on)
- 10. Now you'll be able to see your iPhone as an audio device in your computer, and your music programs!



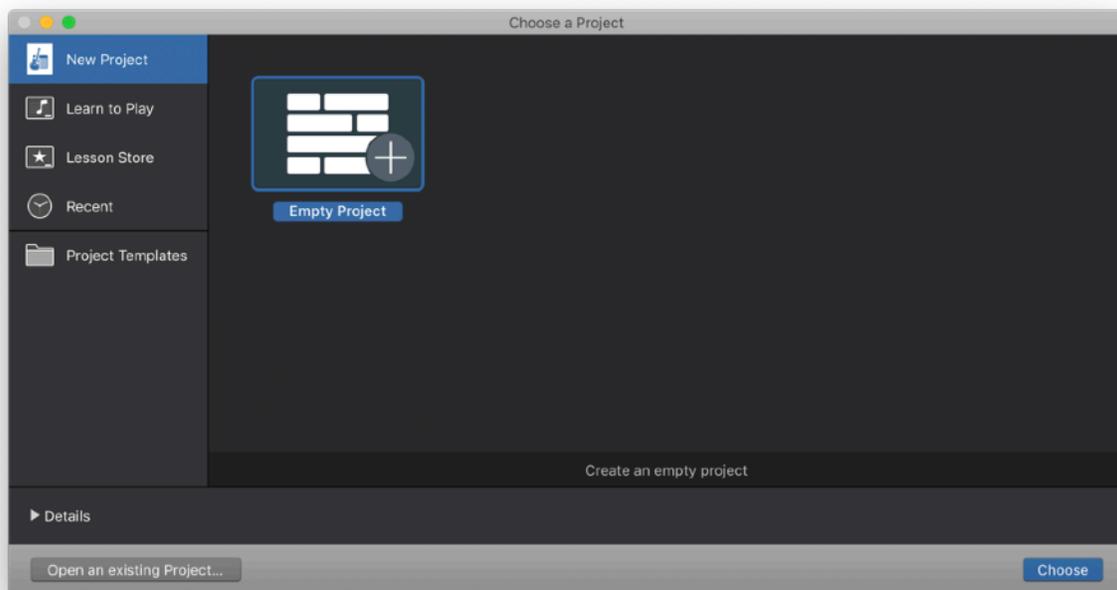
- 11. ON YOUR PHONE: Make sure to turn off 'Auto-Lock' (Settings>Display & Brightness) so your phone won't turn off while you're using it as a mic!



- Open the Auphonic app, and in settings, make sure that the 'Headphones & USB' option under 'Monitoring' is checked.
- Tap done, and go back to the recording screen, but don't press record!

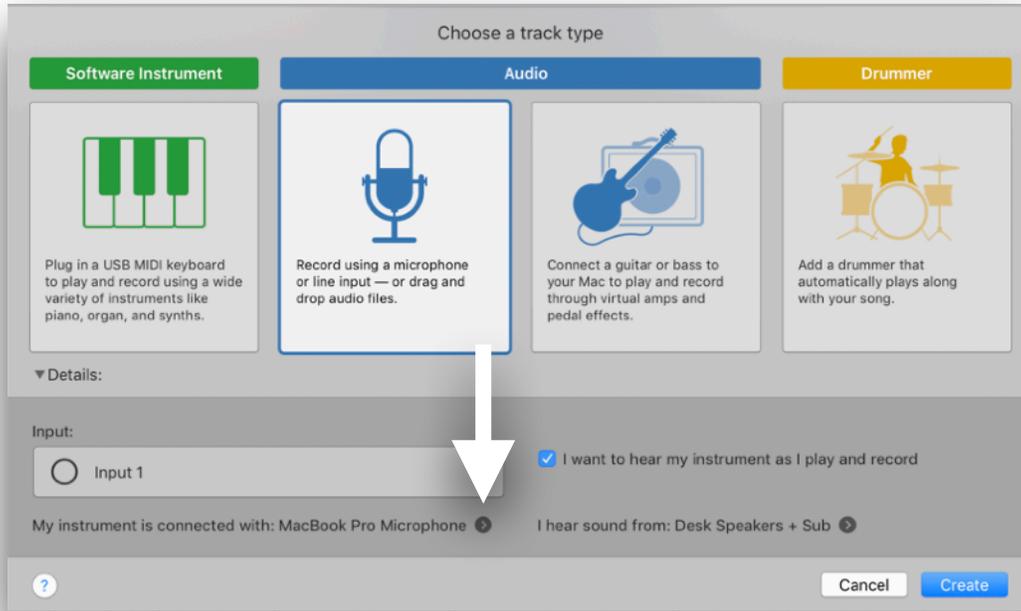


- Open your music app, let's use GarageBand for now.
- Open up an Empty Project (or the project that you're working on with your group)



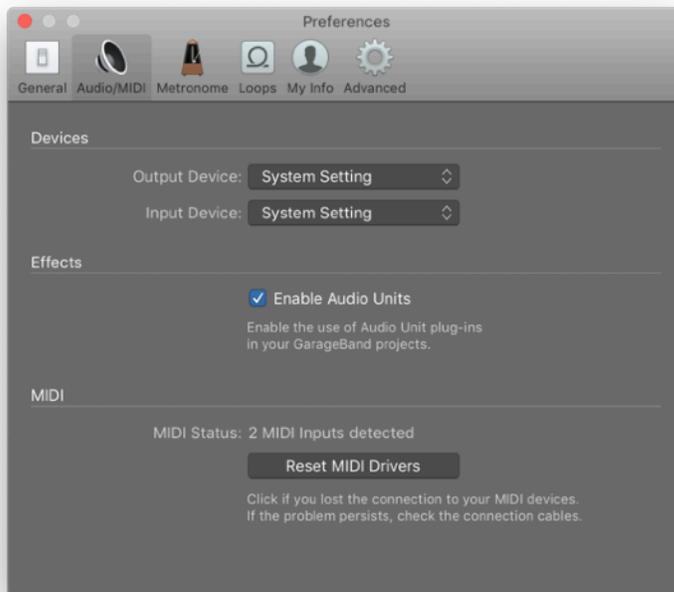
16. Choose the microphone, and under where it says 'Input' you'll see some small text that says *'my instrument is connected with: MacBook Pro Microphone'* and a little right-facing arrow

17. CLICK IT



18. A window will pop up that has drop-down lists for input and output devices

19. Click the dropdown menu for 'Input Device' and choose your new 'iPhone' audio device



20. Close the window, and click 'create' (note: if you click the *'I want to hear my instrument as I play and record'* button, you MUST have headphones, or else you WILL have feedback!)

21. Try out recording! Make sure your levels are set, and the mic you selected is the one you mean to record with (on my iPhone XS, I have the option of 3 mics, and usually the bottom one is the best!)

Happy collaborating!