

Setting up and recording with your Porta-Booth Pro®



Porta-Booth Pro® features:

- Sonic stage “auditorium” design is more than twice as large as a standard Porta-Booth®
- Assembles in seconds. Just close two zippers – the acoustic foam is already installed.
- Ruggedly constructed of 600 denier fabric with reflective piping.
- A zip-open rear slot accommodates shotgun microphones, boom arm mic stands and cables.
- The zip-open bottom slot lets you use both floor and desktop microphone stands.
- An included LED light clip illuminates and holds your script or sheet music.
- A built-in audio hood helps reduce unwanted sounds in extra noisy environments.
- The padded, exterior-accessible storage pocket on the travel bag holds cables, lights and laptops.
- Two compression straps let you shrink the thickness of the booth for more packing space.
- At seven pounds the Porta-Booth Pro® is not just portable it’s a great permanent audio studio too.
- With the optional Porta-Sound Stand you can sit or stand-up to record.

*The professional – portable – sound booth
for studio quality recording at home and on the road.*

How does the Porta-Booth Pro® work?

You can get professional quality ‘tight’ sounding audio recordings without a multi-thousand dollar human-size sound booth. The secret is that *YOU* don’t have to be inside a sound booth – your *MICROPHONE* does!

You can capture decent audio in any relatively quiet space away from windows and cathedral ceilings but there is always that tell-tale “roomy-boomy” sound in untreated acoustic areas that mar the professionalism of the recording. Audio software can get rid of extraneous noise quite well, but not the character of the room itself.

The solution? Place your microphone in the Porta-Booth Pro® where it “hears” a quiet, acoustically correct room. Now add your voice or instrument and voila.’

What the Porta-Booth Pro® can and can’t do.

As the booth shapes the sound your microphone picks up from the side and back it can also help in reducing extraneous noises - like laptop fan hum. But it can’t make a really noisy, room quiet! So it’s smart to position the booth away from windows and hallways and in tough locations - like hotel rooms - even consider turning off the heat and/or air conditioning while you are recording. Do remember to turn it back on though; returning to a sweltering/freezing room can really spoil the day.

Unpacking and packing your Porta-Booth Pro®:

First a caution!

Your Porta-Booth Pro® uses the highest-quality acoustic foam and it will last many years with reasonable care. By nature though, foam is fragile and can be easily torn if mishandled or has a close encounter with one of the booth’s zippers! So go slow, zipping and un-zipping *carefully* when assembling and disassembling your booth.

Begin by opening the carrying bag and removing the booth. Release the four hook & loop strips and unfold the booth, setting aside the U shaped top section. Insert and clip the LED light into either of the two pouches provided. Now, zip the sides and bottom together. Place the top section atop the booth and pull the zipper around to connect it to the sides and bottom. Pull and press the four hook & loop strips at the corners of the booth’s front to add extra rigidity – and – that’s it!

If you use the included compression straps to reduce the thickness of the booth for more storage space in the carrying bag, allow about 5 minutes for the foam to regain its shape. **DO NOT** store the booth compressed for long periods of time because foam can eventually warp.

To repack your booth, release the hook & loop fasteners, and unzip the top section setting it aside. Remove the LED light and store it in the carrying bag. Now un-zip the sides

from the bottom and laying everything out flat, foam side up. Fold the bottom section over onto the side it's attached to. Next place the top section on top of the bottom section with the foam upwards. Fold the remaining side section onto the top, meshing the foam pyramids and secure everything with the hook & loop strips – place the booth back into the carrying bag.

Choosing and positioning the microphone & stand:

For best results use a microphone with a cardioid (heart-shaped) pick-up pattern like the MXL VO: 1-A. Ideally, the mic should be placed 30 to 50% of the way back in the booth. If you use a long shotgun microphone, zip open the slot in the rear wall of the booth so the back of the mic and the XLR connector is outside.

Your choice of microphone stand will depend on the size and weight of your mic of choice and whether you are using your booth on-the-road or at home in a more permanent situation.

For traveling: a low-profile, adjustable height, folding stand like the ProLine PLDMS1 desktop stand works well and it's legs span the booth's pyramid foam bottom. The Samson MD-5 desktop stand is another good choice and can be set on the support surface itself instead of on the foam and inserted up into the booth through the zippered slot in the booth's bottom section.

At home: any standard floor or desktop mic stand will work fine when inserted up into the booth. You can also bring in a boom arm to support your microphone through the rear slot. For large/heavy microphones the adjustable height Atlas DS7E desktop stand with its cast-iron base provides rock-solid support and gives you the option of mounting your mic upside down.

If the XLR connector at the bottom of your microphone is affecting it's vertical placement in your booth try a space-saving right angle female connection like the Hosa 5' straight male to right angle female interconnect cable.

Positioning Yourself:

You don't have to stick your face into the booth. Just get reasonably close. A good starting position is to lean in so your forehead just touches the top of the booth and then move back a few inches you'll hear the 'sweet spot' that gives you the best sound – experiment a bit.

Of course, your head and body help to block some of the unwanted sounds in a room along with the noise reduction features in your recording software. It also helps to get closer to the booth and use the audio hood located in the grey pouch on top of the booth. You'll be amazed how much this remarkably light fleece material can help. The hood

drapes over your head and shoulders and attaches to hook and loop contact patches located along the sides of your booth.

Positioning the Script:

For narrative and voice over work you'll probably want to place the script inside the booth alongside the microphone. You can just lean the paper against the back wall or use the LED light clip to hold your script in place. Additional LED lights are available if you'd like more light on the subject. iPhone and electronic reading devices work great too. For singers, musicians or voice over 'screamer spots' hold the copy/sheet music outside the booth and move your head back just enough to read with your peripheral vision.

FAQ's:

Does the Porta-Booth Pro® qualify as carry-on luggage.

Technically, no due to it's unusual shape. However, many airlines do make an exception for "odd-shaped" carry-on luggage and in particular for musical instruments. So always ask! On several domestic flights the booth's been allowed as carry-on.

How do I re-fold the audio hood?

With the hood hanging flat in front of the booth push the opposite hook & loop fasteners together then fold the hood upwards twice. It'll fit the punch perfectly and keep the fasteners from sticking to the cloth.

What if I prefer to stand to record?

We do too! You can place the booth on a shelf mounted to on a wall at the right height for you but a more practical and flexible solution is the Porta-Sound Stand. It's a heavy-duty, free standing metal grid wall comes with two adjustable shelves that let you put the booth just where you want it - standing or sitting. If you are cramped for space it can be stored in a closet or even under the bed.

The Porta-Sound Stand's open grid design let's you bring your microphone into the booth from the bottom or the back of the booth and is a great place to hang cables, headphones and stopwatches. You can add an angled sheet music shelf if you are a musician or have long copy to deliver.

Why is the silver trim reflective?

No good reason – we just liked the look and hope it reflects well on you and your performances.

Thanks again for buying the Porta-Booth Pro® a truly affordable and portable way to record studio quality audio – just about anywhere! It's a simple device - that simply – works.

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If you need other information, want to share a tip or have a compliment or concern please email Info@VoiceOverEssentials.com. You'll find accessories and recommended microphones, mic stands and recording gear online at www.VoiceOverEssentials.com.



One Year Limited Warranty

Wordsworth, Inc. warrants the Porta-Booth Pro® against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from the date of purchase. Like any product, your Porta-Booth Pro® will wear over time with normal use. Consequently we do not cover damage resulting from wear and tear, misuse, abuse, torn or damaged foam or damage caused by common carriers.

Your warranty is not transferable and proof of purchase must be provided to obtain warranty service - which is limited to repair or replacement at our discretion.

Wordsworth, Inc. does not make any implied warranties of merchantability or use for a specific purpose nor does the limited warranty apply to incidental or consequential damages. Some states do not allow limitations on incidental or consequential damages or allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts.

Warning!

Acoustic Foam and other materials used in the construction of your Porta-Booth Pro® are flammable. To reduce the risk of fire do not use near open flames.