

The Synchronesh; portable recording studio

Portable one-person radio drama studio using a canvas wardrobe, acoustic treatment, RØDE NT1, and Focusrite Scarlett Solo.

Introduction

This is a guide to making your own low cost portable recording studio. With a few carefully chosen items you can assemble a compact, fold-away recording booth. The booth is large enough for one person but will provide a high quality recording environment which will enable you to create broadcast quality speech based content. Of course, we hope it will be drama – but it could equally well be other forms of speech based content.



This is a photo of the completed booth. The diagram below shows the constituent parts.

Figure 1: Studio Setup Overview

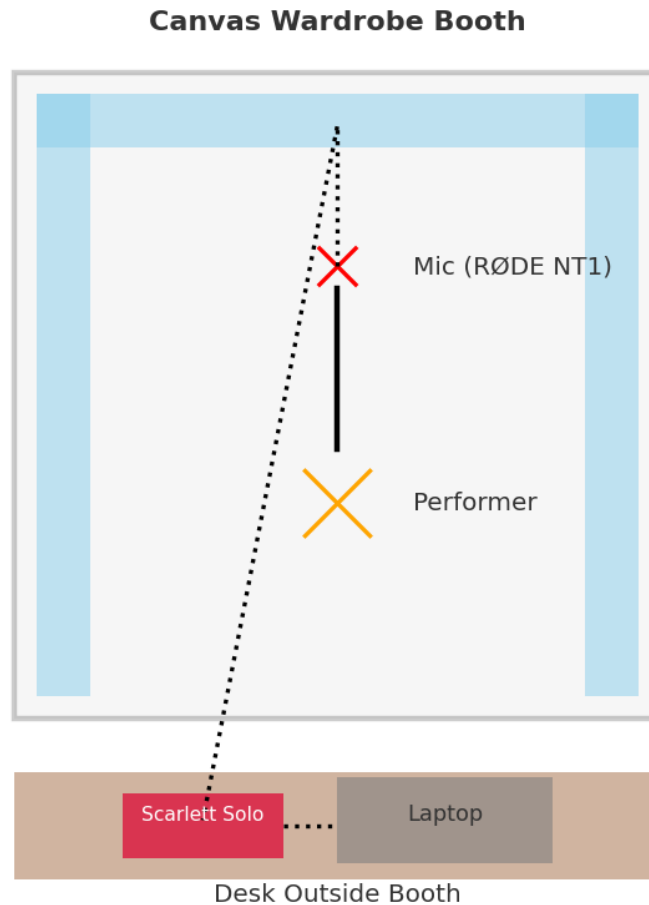


Figure 1 — Studio Setup Overview — booth inside, interface and laptop outside.

What you need

- A canvas fold away wardrobe
- Acoustic panels
- A large diaphragm condenser microphone – we suggest the Rode NT1 signature edition
- An audio interface – the bridge between microphone and laptop. We suggest the Focusrite Scarlett solo 4th generation.

Lets look at the components individually

A canvas wardrobe



Available from many suppliers. Indicative cost 15 Euros.

Wedge acoustic panels



Widely available online. Indicative cost 22 Euros

A rode NT1 condenser microphone



Indicative price 155 Euros. Shop around.

An audio interface



The focusrite Scarlett 4th generation. Indicative price 137 Euros. Again shop around. May be available as a package with the microphone.

How to make it

1. Set up the booth

Assemble the canvas wardrobe and line it with the acoustic panels. (or you could use blankets or a duvet or both if you are working in a noisy environment.)

Figure 2: Wardrobe Booth Layout

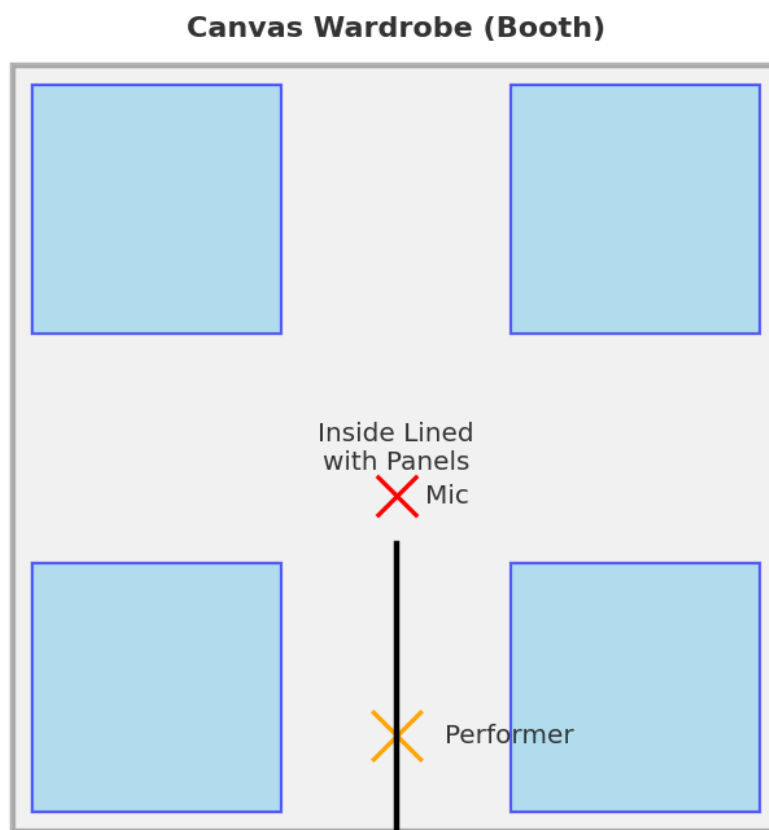


Figure 2 — Wardrobe booth layout (top-down).

Figure 3: Acoustic Treatment Enhancements

Wardrobe Booth

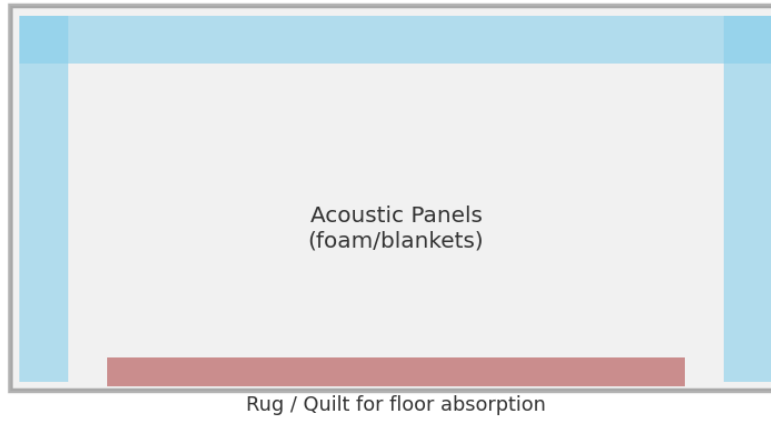
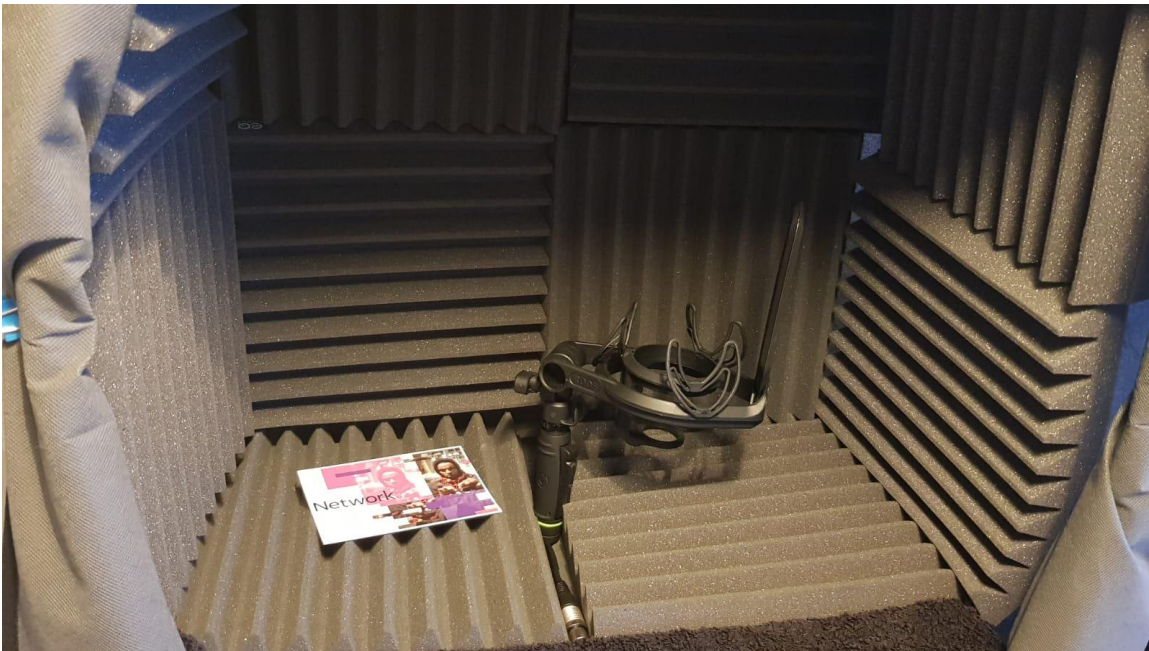


Figure 3 — Acoustic treatment enhancements (sides + ceiling + floor).

This is what it should like



2. Set up the equipment

Place the microphone in the booth on a stand inside the booth. Connect it to the Scarlett solo which is outside the booth. Connect the Scarlett to your laptop. Open your recording software – for example Audacity <https://www.audacityteam.org/> - free to use. Reaper <https://www.reaper.fm/purchase.php> \$60 for an individual. Or protocols <https://www.avid.com/pro-tools> - different subscriptions available.

Figure 4: Signal Flow

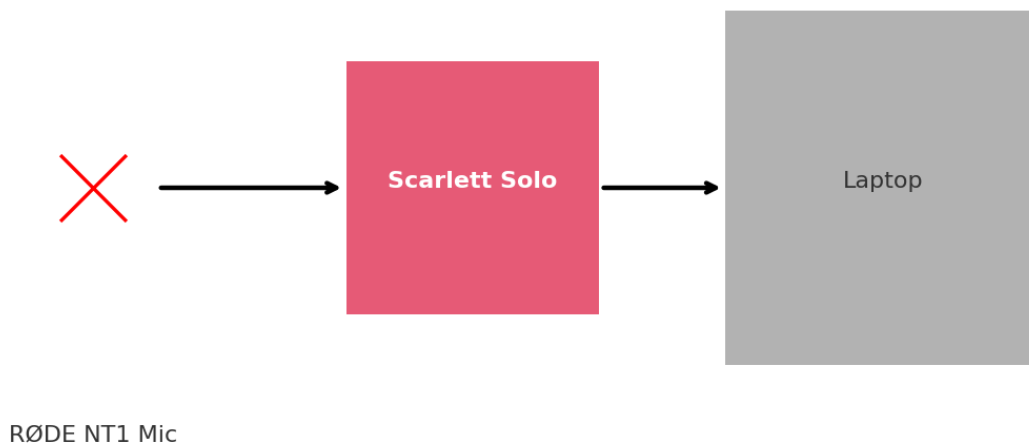


Figure 4 — Signal flow: RØDE NT1 → Scarlett Solo → Laptop.

3. Get Started!

Sit inside your booth and start recording! When you have finished, unplug the equipment and fold the booth away.

4. Expand your studio

You can easily expand your studio with more booths. The Scarlett Solo allows for 2 microphones to be plugged in so you get your second booth for a discount price!

Summary of the benefits of this approach

- Isolation: the wardrobe blocks echoes and outside noise so you get a clean recording
- Clarity: The RØDE NT1 captures performance with broadcast quality.
- Control: The Scarlett Solo gives you stable, clean gain and prevents overload.
- Portability: Everything packs away into a cupboard or corner when not in use.

About the Synchronesh project

This project aimed to introduce early career performing arts professionals from seven countries to the delights and opportunities of the remarkable art form which is audio drama. The project is also equipping participants to internationalise their careers through giving them direct experience of collaborating with colleagues from other countries to make and distribute work. A slate of 10 full length professional quality plays produced by our participants is available on the website long with an expanding suite of other resources intended to support anyone who wants to make excellent audio drama.

<https://the-synchronesh.eu/about/>



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