

Smartphone microphones for a closer sound, and for use in the open air

A smart phone or ipad cannot be used out of doors in other than absolutely calm conditions without wind noise ruining the recording. This is particularly a problem when the speaker is several feet away from the device – in which case the device will automatically increase the microphone level to try to hear the person speaking, but amplifying the wind noise at the same time.

Small external (not very expensive) microphones are available to replace the built-in microphone. Either clip-on / lavalier / personal (the name used varies) mics or little directional mics (consider these if you need to cover, say, singer and guitar) and both types come (generally) with windshields -



Personal clip-on mic
Foam windshields are effective in gentle breezes
Furry ones are best



Directional mic with fur windshield

Clip-on mic with windshield (example)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01KGN08HU/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?smid=A2NHBDL73PFM1E&psc=1

Little directional / shotgun mic (example)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B06XW36KVB/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o08_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Various other mics are available, some with a 'Lightning' plug specifically for iphones, others with a 3.5mm jack plug – this type can be used with any device, *with a suitable converter lead*.

Check what converter lead or extension lead you may need, depending on the device you're using to shoot the video.....

Tip, ring, ring, sleeve to Lightning (iphone) converter

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B07Q6K37BD/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o08_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

TRRS (tip, ring, ring, sleeve) extension lead

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B07QLWQCWM/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o06_s01?ie=UTF8&psc=1

TRS (tip, ring, sleeve) extension lead

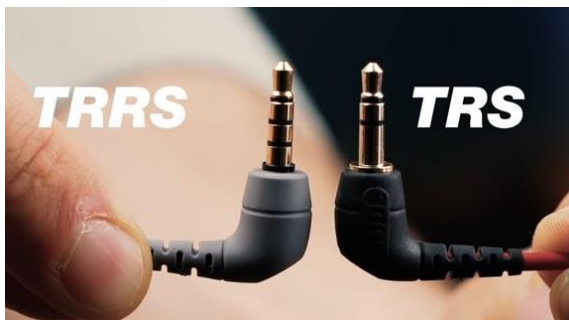
https://www.amazon.co.uk/AmazonBasics-3-5mm-Female-Stereo-Audio/dp/B01CNAV1K2/ref=sr_1_3?crid=REHJF6QAISM&keywords=trs+extension+cable&qid=1585479211&sprefix=trs+ex%2Caps%2C149&sr=8-3

I would very much recommend spending the time to watch this *Think Media* youtube talk about types of mics suitable for smart phone / ipad video recordings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iW3uSTWNAxQ>

- You may not choose the mics he mentions, but the video provides useful background information

The two types of 3.5mm plug.



The TRRS type carries earphone and microphone connections for iphones / ipads / Android phones

TRS plugs work as headphone plugs on eg ipods, other personal listening devices, but also work as microphone plugs – on laptops, for example (but not on smart phones) Confusing, eh?

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I'm available to clarify what I've written, or offer further advice
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