



Girls Twiddling Knobs

START FIELD RECORDING WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

The Essential Gear Checklist

FIELD RECORDING IS ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERES YOU CAPTURE, NOT PERFECTION



If you're looking to embrace more innovative, less conventional sounds in your music (and beyond), you might just fall in love with field recording.

By capturing sounds from outside the recording studio, you can give your music a creative edge and truly stand out as an artist.

Best of all, you can get started with just a smartphone!

FIELD RECORDING WITH A SMARTPHONE

The Essential Gear Checklist

1. SMARTPHONE

Whether it's Android or iOS, phones these days have become little hand-held recording devices. Most people have one and you can pick one up for as little as £25.



2. AUDIO RECORDING APP

Download a third-party app so you can adjust gain levels, change sample rates, display input levels and save to multiple file formats.

[FIELD
RECORDER >>](#)
[DOLBY ON >>](#)

3. HEADPHONES

Hear what you're recording as it sounds through your microphone with some earbuds or closed back headphones.

**IPHONE
EARBUDS (IOS)**
[AKG K7S >>](#)
[SENHEISER
CX 300S >>](#)

4. SENSIBLE CLOTHING

It's not uncommon to notice the rain clouds moving in or to be scrambling over uneven ground while field recording, so make sure you're in comfortable, weather resistant clothing.



5. NOTE PAD

Keep notes of what each recording relates to and the time codes where any interesting sound events occur. You'll make your life SO much easier when it comes to sifting through your recordings later on.



GOING PRO

If you've properly got the field recording bug, it might be time to upgrade your set up so you can capture the sounds around you in even more detail and clarity.

Pro Handy Recorder

[ZOOM H4N >>](#)

[TASCAM DR-40X >>](#)

Windshield

[ZOOM WSU-1 >>](#)

External Smartphone Microphone

[ZOOM AM7 >>](#)
(iOS)

[ZOOM IQ6 >>](#)
(Android)

HI, I'M ISOBEL

I help women, like you, start recording and sharing their music.

I know that there are so many talented female musicians that just haven't found a way to get their music out yet. Maybe you've found that studio time is a luxury you just can't afford and even that, like many female musicians, this kind of environment feels slightly intimidating?

As a [DIY musician myself](#), I know how tough it can feel to even get started, let alone create any momentum as an artist. But four self-produced, self-releasing albums, nearly [30 million Spotify streams](#) and a PhD in Sonic Arts later, I now know a thing or two about carving out a sound and career you can be proud of. But I could never have done just that without



first learning even just the basics of home-recording and getting those skills wasn't easy.

That's why in 2018, I started [Girls Twiddling Knobs](#) to help other women grow their confidence with home-recording and start sharing their music. I'm passionate about creating inclusive and supportive online communities where women can learn without judgement or unnecessary pressure. Whether it's through teaching music production in some of London's leading music industry colleges or with the multiple female musicians inside my online learning communities, I love seeing my students transformation everyday.

I truly believe that when female musicians have the right resources, exceptional support and a thriving community we can record and produce amazing music, and that will mean more women in music.

I'd love to help you to do the same.

Isobel x

EAGER TO LEARN MORE?

This April, we'll be taking a group of women in music through The Art of Field Recording - a 4-week Live online group programme on how to record, edit and compose with environmental sound, and we'd love for you to join us.

JOIN THE WAITLIST >>

IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Say hello on the 'gram at [@girlstwiddlingknobs](https://www.instagram.com/girlstwiddlingknobs)

Add info@femalediymusician.com to your email's contacts and look out for more amazing resources coming your way.

Listen to the [Girls Twiddling Nobs podcast](#), where I share tips on recording and sharing your music as well as guest episodes with women smashing it with music-tech.

Know a fellow female musician who would love this guide?

SHARE THE LOVE >>