

Lesson 12

Recording a Podcast

Podcasts are one of the most popular sources of entertainment and information available on the Internet. Podcasts are similar to radio or television shows, in that they deliver audio and video to their audience. A key difference, though, is that a podcast is not broadcast using traditional means. Rather, a person subscribes to the show (usually for free) and then it is delivered to the subscriber's computer.

One of the reasons for podcasting's popularity is that shows can be viewed (or listened to) in a variety of ways. They can, of course, be watched on a computer, but they can also be sent to portable media players like iPods, as well as to television sets via an Apple TV or a Digital Video Recorder device.

With GarageBand '08, you can create your podcast episodes and then upload them to the Internet using iWeb or another application. There are four primary types of podcasts: audio podcasts; enhanced audio podcasts with markers, artwork, and URLs; video podcasts containing a movie; and enhanced video podcasts containing a movie, markers, artwork, and URLs.

In this lesson, you'll learn how to create a new podcast episode and set up voice tracks for recording. You'll then work on an enhanced audio podcast with multiple tracks, markers, artwork, and URLs. Along the way, you'll also build an opening title sequence, edit marker regions and artwork, and record sound effects directly to the Timeline.

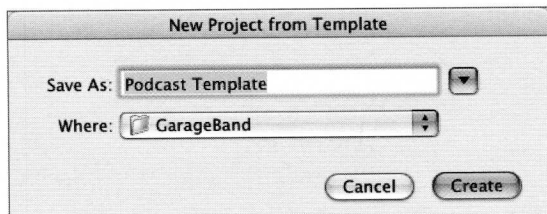
Creating a New Podcast Project

Setting up a new podcast project is easy. GarageBand offers a useful New Podcast Episode template right in the GarageBand welcome screen. Let's build the opening sequence to our podcasting episode.

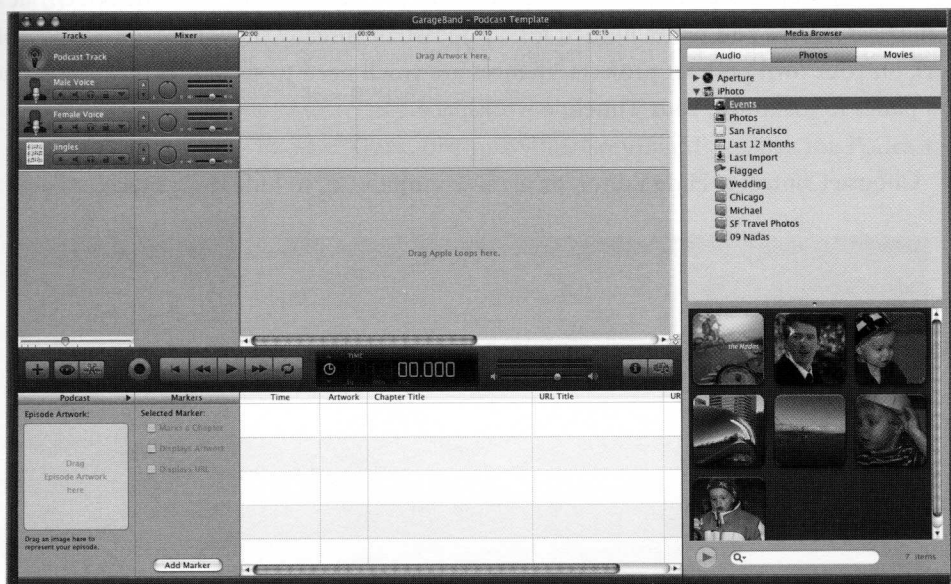
- 1 Open GarageBand. If GarageBand is already open, choose File > New.
- 2 In the GarageBand welcome screen, click the Create New Podcast Episode button.



- 3 Save the project as *Podcast Template* to your GarageBand projects folder (the default location).



4 Click Create.



The Podcast Template project opens, with the empty Podcast Track, editor with marker information, and Media Browser already showing. The Media Browser contains buttons for three different types of media files (Audio, Photos, Movies), a browser that lets you navigate to the media files you want to use, and a media list showing the media files in the current location.

You can use movie files to create a video podcast. Likewise, any files in the Photos pane of the Media Browser can be used as episode artwork for your podcast.

Besides the default items from your iLife media library, you can add other folders of still images and photos to the Photos pane so you can access artwork files anywhere on your computer.

NOTE ► To remove a folder from the Media Browser, hold down the Control key and click the folder. Choose Remove Folders from the pop-up menu that appears.

Showing and Hiding the Podcast Track, Browser, and Editor

By using the New Podcast Episode template from the GarageBand welcome screen, all of the basic tracks and panes needed for a podcast are already showing. However, as you work on your own podcast projects, chances are you'll need to show and hide some tracks and panes to maximize your Timeline workspace.

- 1 Choose Control > Hide Editor, or press Command-E, to hide the editor.
- 2 Choose Control > Hide Media Browser, or press Command-R, to hide the Media Browser.



The podcast template includes a Podcast Track and three pre-built audio tracks, including Male Voice, Female Voice, and Jingles. You can always add more tracks or delete unneeded tracks from the Timeline.

To make your vocal tracks easier to hear, GarageBand has automatically enabled ducking. This means that some tracks take priority as lead tracks while others function as backing tracks. By default, the voice tracks are set as priority tracks, whereas the Jingles track is set as a backing track that will be ducked as needed to favor the voice tracks.

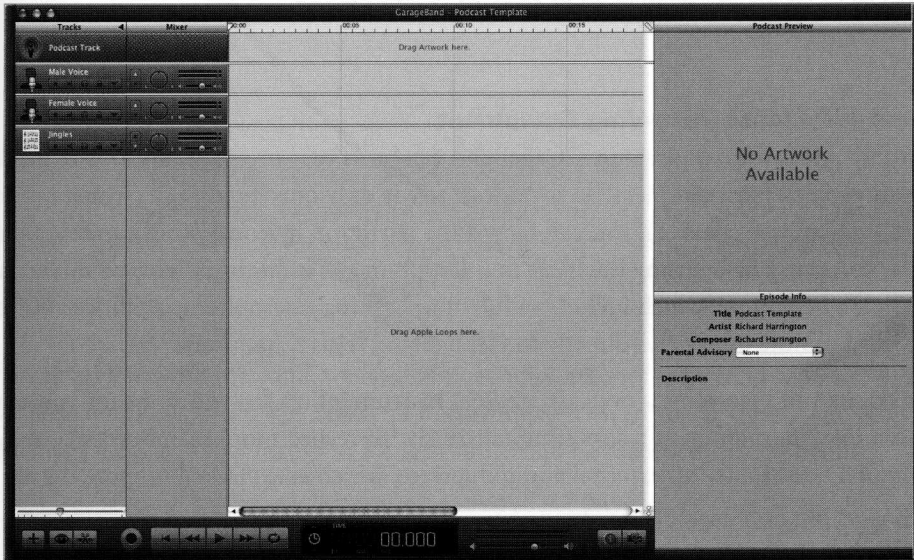


NOTE ► Whenever a sound is present on a lead track, the volume of the backing tracks is lowered. Ducking is indicated by the arrows pointing up and down next to each track's header. Click the up arrow to indicate a lead track. Click the down arrow to indicate a backing track.

- 3 Choose Track > Hide Podcast Track, or press Shift-Command-B.

Hiding the Podcast Track while you're working on a podcast is generally a bad idea. In fact, you're more likely to want to show the Podcast Track in a project you may not have originally designated as a podcast.

- 4 Choose Track > Show Podcast Track, or press Shift-Command-B. Click the Podcast Track to select it.



The Podcast Track reappears along with the Track Info pane for the selected track. You'll also see a Podcast Preview pane in the upper-right corner of the window. The Podcast Preview pane—which is similar to the Video Preview pane—allows you to see the podcast's artwork as you play the project.

- 5 Press Command-R to show the Media Browser and automatically hide the Track Info pane.
- 6 Press Command-R again to hide the Media Browser.

Hiding the Media Browser will not make the Track Info pane reappear. When a pane is hidden to make room to show another pane in its place, the previous pane remains hidden until you choose to show it again.

