

# Professional Recording

## Recording Yourself Professionally By Terry L. Brock, CSP



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**R**ecording yourself live used to be a tedious process.

In the old days you had to get a wireless microphone, a cassette recorder (usually that was what was used) and, most important, find some willing volunteer to flip the cassette over when you needed it.

Those days are gone. Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century where we do things quite differently. Today you can record your presentations easily at CD Quality.

Here is what I recommend for today's professional who wants to seriously capture the essence of good thoughts and ideas made to a group.

### Think MiniDisc

The MiniDisc is a great recording device that provides the ability to record at CD-Quality. You can record 74 minutes in stereo or 148 minutes (double the capacity) in mono. You can set the parameters of the recording to handle whichever is best for you.



The MiniDisc provides abilities for professional recording on removable discs that are inexpensive and highly versatile.

I've used cassettes and Digital Audio Tape (DAT) in the past. Both have been good for certain functions, but the MiniDisc is far superior. It provides the quality of CD and the ease of use to find a given track on a CD. With the MiniDisc you can access up to 256 tracks per disc. These tracks can then be moved about or deleted as needed.

I've used the MiniDisc for recording speeches for several years now. My old MZ-R55 (left) is no longer produced by Sony but is replaced by later, more versatile and capable recording devices.

### Microphone Needed

You'll need to get a microphone that will provide you the ability to record. I purchased a small lavalier clip-on microphone that provides good quality at Radio Shack. I also have used one that came with another Sony cassette

recorder.

## Test, Test and Test Again

Before the big presentation, make sure that you test your equipment several times so that you are comfortable with it. You'll want to be comfortable enough to check it when working with it to make sure that it is working right.



Newer MiniDisc models provide the ability to control remotely and get the maximum value.

## Buying is *Not* Enough

Unfortunately you can't just buy the unit and use it. This is not a problem with the unit anymore than just buying an airplane solves all your flying problems. You have to know how to make it work in various situations. Get someone to help you the first time you use it. Go over the procedure a few times and then you'll be comfortable in a short time.

I help others to work with these features and get them working in the real world. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me (see contact information below).

## Where to Buy

Check the Net. I use [www.minidisco.com](http://www.minidisco.com) a lot. You can also check [www.circuitcity.com](http://www.circuitcity.com) and pick up your purchase as a local store. Also, many professional recording outlets have MiniDisc recorders available. Expect to pay about \$150-\$400 for a superior quality sound. The discs will cost \$2.00 to \$3.00 each.



Sony's MZ-R900DPC provides the ability to record yourself and also to rip MP3 onto MiniDisc!

Plan on learning a lot and loving this device. It can help you both personally and professionally.

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