

PODCASTUDIO QUICK-START GUIDE

Welcome to the BEHRINGER PODCASTUDIO

Thank you for purchasing this set of products compiled by BEHRINGER. This top-notch bundle of hardware and software lets you creatively produce professional-sounding podcasts for the Internet. Move up to the next step in the evolution of broadcasting, and free yourself and others from the limitations of conventional mass communication.

Podcasting basics

The following section gives you a quick insight into the terminology being used.

Podcasting is a term derived from combining the two words “iPod” and “broadcasting” and is defined as the distribution of audio or video files, such as radio programs or music clips, over the Internet. This is accomplished by using one of two syndication techniques which allow users to listen and, of late, even view digital media on such portable media devices as iPod players and laptops.

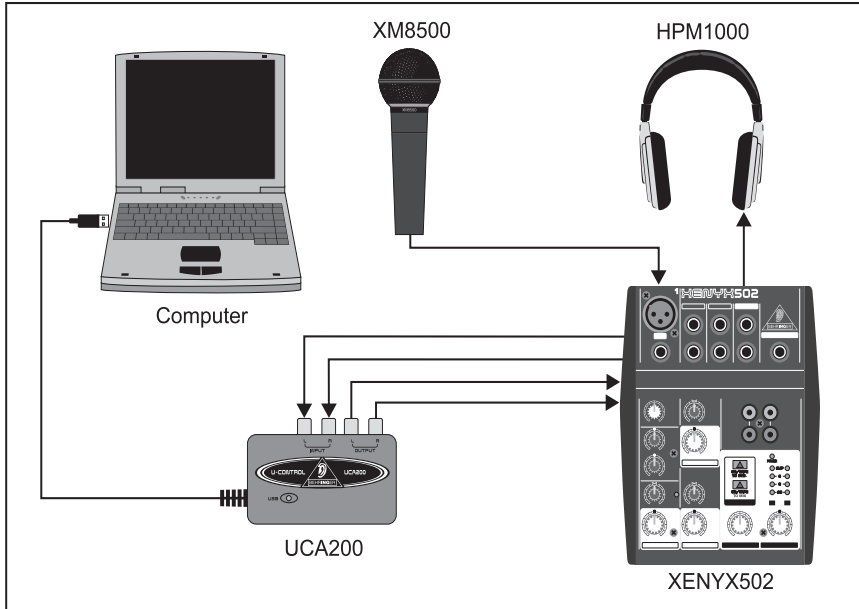
RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and *Atom* are Web content syndication formats written in XML which provide either podcast content or summaries that link to content and additional file information.

Podcast is a feed of audio or video files placed on the Internet for public access. Anyone can subscribe to the feed and download the media files. This allows you to collect programs from a wide range of sources for listening or viewing media content, either online or offline with your computer or an appropriate portable device.

Podcatcher refers to a software application that enables the download of podcasts. Usually, it launches when the computer is started and runs then in the background, managing feeds that you add manually and downloading each at a specified interval.



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Step-by-step installation

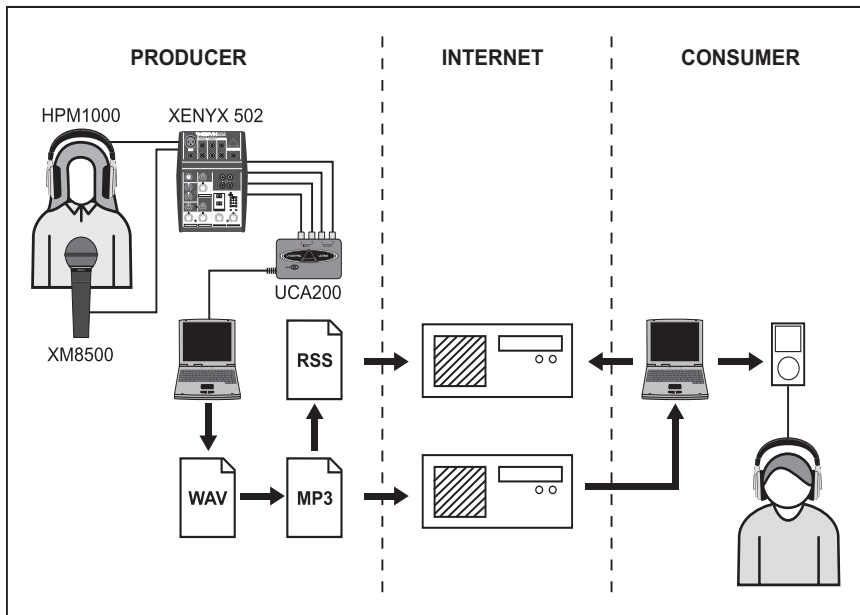
Now that you know the terminology and have all the gear you will need to produce high-quality audio podcasts, it's about time you set up the equipment, install the software and get started.

1. Connect your new UCA200 USB audio interface to your computer by using the USB connector.
2. Connect the XENYX 502 analog mixer with the USB audio interface by using the included RCA cables to join the input of the interface with the mixer's CD/Tape output and the CD/Tape input with the output of the interface.
3. Connect your XM8500 microphone to the mixer with the provided XLR cable.
4. Hook up the HPM1000 headphones to the mixer's Headphone connector. Should you want to monitor the recording sessions with a pair of loudspeakers, use the Main output to connect the speakers to the mixer.

After setting up the hardware, you are ready to install the audio software and podcasting applications provided on the software CD.

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1. When using the Windows operating system, you may want to begin with the installation of the ASIO2KS driver for real-time monitoring.
2. Then, install the Audacity software application, an easy-to-use audio editor, and Kristal Audio Engine, a powerful audio sequencer and mixer. Please note that the Audacity software is not ASIO capable, but runs on both Windows and Mac operating systems.
3. The Audacity software doesn't include an MP3 codec to encode audio files. For this reason you will first need to download and install the LAME MP3 encoder (more information and download at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/?lang=en>).
4. Remember to choose the appropriate driver in the preferences of Audacity and Kristal Audio Engine when using these programs with your USB audio interface.
5. Install the Podifier software. This application automates the making of podcasts and includes an FTP feature to upload your podcasts to a server.
6. Install the Juice or Podnova software. Both of these applications are cross-platform podcast receivers which help you manage your podcast files.
7. Alternatively, install the Golden Ear software (works only on Windows operating systems). This program is a podcast receiver that enables you to look for and download podcasts.



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Your first podcast

Start to produce your first podcast by recording your voice or an acoustic instrument. Your mixer enables you to control the input levels, mix and equalize the material you've picked up through the microphone, while you monitor the sound with your headphones. Using the included Audacity recording software, you can record, edit and save your recording sessions to your computer's hard drive. Simply turn up the levels of the Microphone input and Main output of your mixer and click on the record button in the application to create a new track and record everything you pick up with your microphone. Be sure to adjust the input and output levels accordingly. After you have finished recording, you can edit and then export the recorded material to a common audio format.

Load the audio file into the Kristal Audio Engine application, which enables you to add multiple tracks (please be aware of copyright issues when using material that is not your own) and master these to a single, final stereo track. Since the Kristal Audio Engine software supports VST plug-ins, you are able to use VST effects to process your audio material.

Now that you have a final version you would like to publish as a podcast, go ahead and compress your audio file to the MP3 file format (after you have installed the LAME encoder) or convert your file to an available audio format of your choice. Simply open your audio file in the Audacity software application and use the Export command in the File menu to save your file.

To publish your podcast, make your new file available online. Upload the generated file to a server with the Podifier software, which assists you to create a feed for your file, enabling you to enter such information as your podcast's URL and title. The feed of your podcast can finally be made accessible to the public by posting it, for example, to an Internet portal. Congratulations, you have just published your very first podcast!

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