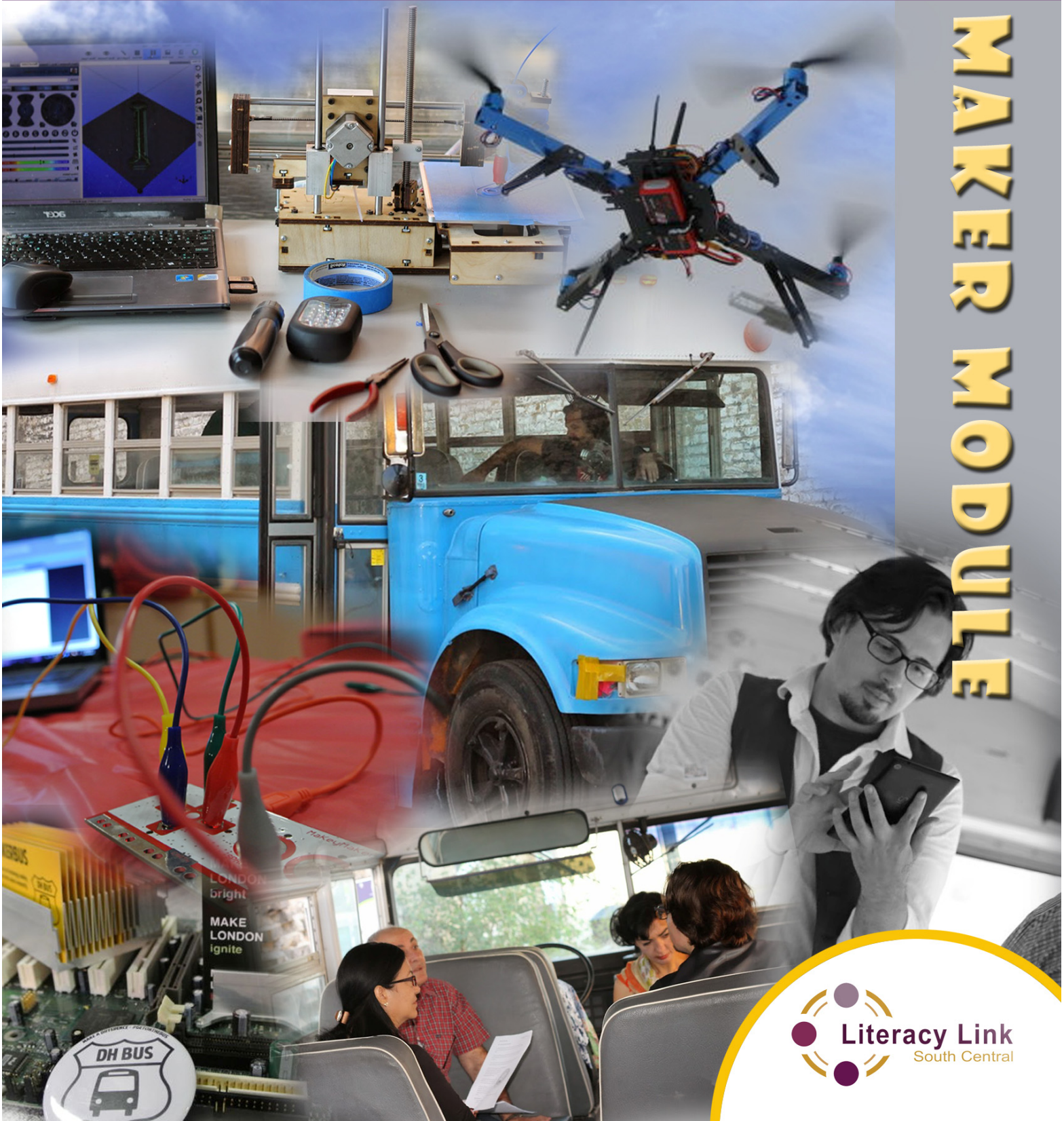




# PORTABLE PODCASTING

MAKER MODULE



## Acknowledgements

These Maker Modules were prepared for the Literacy Link South Central project “Using Technology to Facilitate Connections between Literacy and the Broader Community” (2014).

Maker Modules available in this series include:

Augmented Reality  
Bluetooth  
Dropbox  
Evernote

Leap Motion  
Macrophotography  
MaKey MaKey  
Portable Podcasting

QR Codes  
Tiny Scan  
Word Lens  
The World of 3D

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**EMPLOYMENT  
ONTARIO**

## Introduction

To successfully complete this MakerBus Module, you will need:

1. **Notes to the Literacy Practitioners**
2. **Portable Podcasting Pre Visit Activity**
  - estimated time is 15 minutes
3. **Portable Podcasting MakerBus Module**
  - estimated time is 30 minutes
4. **Podcasters' Information Sheet**
  - To record learners information so their podcast can be sent to them
5. **Portable Podcasting Post Visit Activity**
  - estimated time is 10 minutes
6. **Evaluation Forms (optional)**
  - learners' feedback is submitted immediately following the visit
  - practitioners' feedback to be submitted following the completion of any Post Visit Activities
7. **Equipment List:**
  - computer with Audacity downloaded
  - Blue Snowball Microphone (using setting #1)



All instructional materials are available on the Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) website, should you need additional copies. Please visit: <http://www.llsc.on.ca/>.



## Portable Podcasting Notes to Literacy Practitioners

### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the basics of podcasting
2. Learn about Blue Snowball Microphone (mic)
3. Set up the Snowball mic and Audacity software
4. Record and export a miniature podcast



### Notes to Practitioners:

While optional, the Pre Visit Activity for podcasting is important in that it prepares learners to actually create a podcast. In addition to discussing what a podcast is, the Pre Visit Activity suggests that learners choose a topic for their own podcast. This selection process encourages learners to “Manage their Learning”, by choosing something that they find of value as an application of their learning. It is expected to take about 15 minutes. Competencies for the Pre Visit Activity include: A1.2/3; B1.2/3 and B2.1.

The MakerBus Module for Portable Podcasting involves quite a bit of reading in order to follow quite complex instructions. Time on the Bus may also provide your learners an opportunity to teach you what they’ve learned, which is a great way to build their confidence, reinforce their learning, and allow you to benefit from their learning as well. Competencies for the MakerBus Module include: A1.2; A3 and D3.

The optional Post Visit Activity for this module gives learners a chance to share their experience and talk about the possible applications for podcasting. Competencies for the Post Visit Activity include: B1.1; B2.1 and D2/3.

**Note:** If you would like to borrow the Blue Snowball Microphone to facilitate additional learning opportunities following your makerbus visit, it may be available for your use. Please contact us for details. The extended time would give learners a chance to create another podcast with more time to plan and prepare.

## Portable Podcasting Pre Visit Activity

### Learner Handout

#### Let's talk:

1. What is a podcast? Share with everyone if you have an idea of what podcasting is.
2. Have you ever listened to a podcast? Talk about podcasts, what you like and what you don't.

On the Bus you will be learning about podcasting, and will have an opportunity to create a mini-podcast using the equipment provided.

3. Think about some things you might like to podcast. Jot down some ideas:

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If you cannot think of anything, here are some possibilities:

- tell a joke that makes you laugh every time you hear it
- talk about your favourite childhood memory
- share your favourite summer/winter activity
- talk about someone you really care about
- review a book
- tell people about your favourite restaurant
- describe your favourite place in London



If you would be more comfortable making a podcast with a partner, then interviewing someone is a great way to do this. You and a partner can ask each other about hobbies, someone you admire, or any topic you are passionate about.

## Portable Podcasting MakerBus Module

Podcasting is like radio on demand, but better. Podcasts gives you a choice of audio content available anytime and anywhere, using the power of the internet. You will be using the Blue Snowball Microphone and Audacity to create a mini-podcast and save an MP3 copy of it.

### **You will learn:**

1. the basics of podcasting
2. about Blue Snowball Microphone (mic)
3. how to set up the Snowball mic and Audacity software
4. how to record and export a miniature podcast



## Part 1: The basics of podcasting

Podcast is a combination of the words “iPod” and “broadcasting”. First coined by Apple, but now available on any digital device including phones, music devices and on the web. It’s a way you can share ideas, hear other’s thoughts and voice anything you want. Podcasting offers a way for you to selectively subscribe to audio files, for free. You choose the topic, and a “podcatcher” finds any new podcasts about that topic and automatically downloads them to your device. This saves you both time and effort, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Let’s go back to that “radio on demand” analogy. Unlike radio, since it is often accessed on portable devices or computers, podcasting can include video or artwork in addition to the audio file. Also unlike radio, which has limited stations and tends to provide audience specific content, podcasting has a much broader focus, not determined by audience size. There are no sponsors to satisfy. Another advantage is that the programs are available at anytime and anywhere that you have access to the internet. Also, podcasting is universal -- anyone can create a podcast on any topic they choose.



## Part 2: Blue Snowball Microphone

The Blue Snowball Microphone (mic) is one of the best starter microphones for podcasting. It is the closest you can get to professional studio quality for the price range (\$50).

There is no software required. It's plug-and-play. You just plug the USB (Universal Serial Bus) cable into your computer and then to the back of the Blue Snowball. You are ready to record.

There is no power button. The Blue Snowball receives power from your computer when the USB is plugged in. There is a red light that indicates it's fully plugged in.

There are 3 settings on the back of the Blue Snowball:

**Setting #1** is mainly used for speaking directly into the mic. This setting would work well with speeches, vocals, podcasting and voiceovers.

**Setting #2** helps capture louder sounds but keep good quality. This setting would work well with live music or instruments.

**Setting #3** picks up sounds from all directions. This setting works well with interviews, conferences, and outdoors where you want to capture background noises.



**Tips and Tricks:** for improved sound quality, the closer the mic is to the sound you wish to record, the better.



### **Part 3: Setting up Blue Snowball and Audacity**

To capture your recording, Audacity is free software that allows you to record and export your recordings. For today's visit, we have downloaded it for you on the laptop but if you would like Audacity on your own computer, you can use the link below:

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>

Audacity and Blue Snowball work really well together. You can get them to work together in just 3 simple steps:

1. Plug the USB (universal serial bus) into the computer and the back of the Snowball
2. Open up Audacity on the computer and click on Edit, then Preferences
3. In Preference, under Recording, change the device to Blue Snowball then click OK

### **Part 4: Record and export a miniature podcast**

You will be recording your pre-selected joke, story or other choice from the Pre Visit Activity and exporting it as a MP3. If you would rather do this with a partner, interview a classmate or your MakerBus Facilitator for your podcast.

It's important to keep your mini-podcast short in order to allow everyone a chance to use the equipment. Please refrain from foul language or profanities.

The symbols in audacity will be like those on your TV remote. Once you're ready, follow these steps to record:

1. Click the red record symbol to start recording
2. Click the yellow stop symbol to stop the recording

To export your recording as an MP3, follow these steps:

1. Hit File then Export
2. Change Save as type to MP3 Files
3. Give it a title name and click save

You just recorded your first mini-podcast!

**Note:** to receive this podcast, please give your name, email and file name to the facilitator so they can email it to you.



**Podcasters' Information**

Name:

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Email:

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File Name:

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**Podcasters' Information**

Name:

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Email:

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File Name:

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**Podcasters' Information**

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## Portable Podcasting Post Visit Activity

### Learner Handout

1. With a peer, discuss the experience of creating your own podcast.  
What surprised you?

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2. List some possible applications for podcasts:

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3. How likely are you to listen to podcasts in the future? Why?

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## Extension Activity

Before you decide to make podcasting a hobby, listen to lots of them. Find out what you think makes a good podcast, and what things to avoid.

If you would like to make more podcasts, there are many sites that offer tips and tricks, tutorials and more. There are also various sites that specialize in helping you choose the right equipment for your needs.

If you would like to try podcasting again but without buying your own equipment, you should know about 121 Studios podcasting booth. For \$20 a day, you can use the Podcasting booth, and all the studios other amenities. You may also get some free advice from other podcasters who record regularly. What a great way to get started! To learn more, check out [www.unlondon.ca](http://www.unlondon.ca)

