

Comprehensive List for Sound Mixers Preparing for a Shoot

Pre-Shoot Planning

1. **Mic'ing Plan:**
 - How many characters are in a scene together with lines?
 - Do we need to rent more mics?
 - Is the location suitable for Boom Mic operation?
2. **Character Outfits:**
 - Types of outfits and how they affect mic placement.
 - Considerations for hiding lavalier mics.
3. **Location Considerations:**
 - Indoors or outdoors?
 - Acoustic properties of the location.
 - Background noise levels and sources.
 - Echo and reverberation control.
4. **Character Movement:**
 - Are the characters static, walking, running, or fighting?
 - Potential impact on mic positioning and sound quality.
5. **Weather and Environment:**
 - Anticipate hot or cold conditions.
 - Plan for potential wet clothes from water or sweat.
 - Wind protection for outdoor scenes.
6. **Schedule and Breaks:**
 - Will there be dedicated breaks throughout the day?
 - Will it be a continuous "run and gun" style shoot?

Equipment Preparation

1. **Microphones:**
 - Types of mics needed (lavalier, shotgun, boom, etc.).
 - Quantity of each type.
 - Backup mics.
2. **Wireless Systems:**
 - Wireless transmitters and receivers.
 - Frequency coordination to avoid interference.
3. **Sound Recorder and Mixer:**
 - Ensure enough channels for all mics.
 - Backup power sources.
4. **Accessories:**
 - Windscreens, shock mounts, and blimps for boom mics.
 - Waterproof covers for equipment.
 - Gaffer tape, adhesive mounts, and clips for lav mics.
5. **Monitoring:**
 - Quality headphones for real-time monitoring.
 - Backup headphones.

On-Set Considerations

1. **Sound Check:**
 - Perform a thorough sound check for each location.
 - Adjust mic positions based on test recordings.
2. **Boom Operator Coordination:**
 - Communicate with the boom operator about movements and cues.
 - Practice choreography for complex scenes.
3. **Interference Management:**
 - Identify potential sources of interference (e.g., cell phones, walkie-talkies).
 - Plan for frequency adjustments.
4. **Noise Reduction:**
 - Use sound blankets or foam to reduce unwanted noise.
 - Coordinate with the director to minimize noisy activities during takes.

Microphone and Recorder Details

1. **DJI Mics:**
 - **Battery Life:** Up to 5 hours per mic on internal batteries.
 - **Charging Plan:** Use in the morning, charge during lunch, use again in the afternoon.
 - **Considerations:** Not suitable for all-day shoots without standard breaks. Internal batteries cannot be replaced, so ensure a break for charging.
2. **Battery-Powered Mics:**
 - **Battery Life:** Up to 10 hours on AA batteries.
 - **Advantages:** Batteries can be easily replaced.
 - **Backup Plan:** Keep plenty of backup AA batteries on site to avoid disruptions.
3. **Sound Mixers/Recorders:**
 - **Zoom H6 Recorder:**
 - **Power Options:** Ideally, use the power cord plugged into a wall socket.
 - **Battery Life:** Can run for a few hours on AA batteries, useful for outdoor shoots.
 - **Backup:** Keep backup batteries; consider rechargeable options.
 - **Zoom F8n Mixer:**
 - **Battery Life:** Less than an hour on 8 AA batteries.
 - **Power Needs:** Requires an external power supply for longer use.
 - **Considerations:** Use a DC9 plug when possible, but external wireless power supplies are recommended to avoid cable clutter on set.
 - **Backup Plan:** Have multiple external power supplies to ensure continuous operation.

Post-Shoot Considerations

1. **Audio Backups:**
 - Ensure multiple backups of all audio recordings.
 - Verify the integrity of recordings immediately after the shoot.
2. **Syncing Audio:**
 - Prepare for syncing audio with video in post-production.
 - Use slate or timecode systems if available.
3. **Notes and Logs:**
 - Maintain detailed logs of takes, mic placements, and any issues encountered.
 - Communicate any specific post-production needs to the editor.

By addressing these comprehensive considerations, sound mixers can ensure they are well-prepared for the challenges of capturing high-quality audio on set.