

School of Podcasting

The Marantz Professional PMD660 is the choice recorder for the *schoolofpodcasting.com*

Podcasting is one of the latest delivery methods of audio over the internet. Podcasts can vary in length from a few minutes to a few hours and in audio content, such as news, books, education materials, or church services. Dave Jackson is the creator and director of www.schoolofpodcasting.com, where he offers a monthly subscription for tutorials and podcasting updates along with a free newsletter that provides an array of tips and tricks for podcasters of all levels. In addition, he creates podcasts for outdoor festivals and church services.

In the Spring of 2006, Jackson was in need of new podcasting equipment. He was looking for equipment that was comprised of a variety of features and was easy to use. He was interested in a unit that was designed to record, rather than recording being an ordinary function. He was also seeking a unit that had portability and flexibility in a size small enough to easily carry, yet not too small. After researching the options, including attending a tradeshow in California, Jackson decided upon the Marantz Professional PMD660. "Everyone at the podcasting tradeshow was talking about it. It is the Cadillac of recorders" he remarked. Additionally, the responsive customer service supported the decision of his purchase.

The PMD660 is comprised of attributes that clearly met the needs of Jackson's podcasting endeavors. Recording in such



Dave Jackson finds the PMD660 to have all of the capabilities he needs to record for his podcasts.

dichotic environments as an outdoor festival and inside a church enhances the challenge of choosing the right equipment. The PMD660 offers automatic volume control, built-in microphones and a standard USB cable for easy connection to any computer. These are just a few features that make it possible to walk around a festival and record at the quality level needed to be converted to a podcast for downloading. As for the church service recording, Jackson explains how quick and easy it is to use, "taking the output from the soundboard at church, recording the service, connecting the

Professional Solid-State Recorder

PMD660



unit to a laptop and then burning cds in a two minute turnaround." Jackson commented that "when conducting telephone interviews via computer, using the computer to record is about 90% reliable as it is overtaxed with the phone call and recording. The foolproof way to record a computer generated phone call is to use the PMD660." Furthermore, because there is no software, retrieving files is an easy process. "Plug the USB cable into any computer and there's the file ready to drag and drop - flexible and easy" he says.

In addition, the PMD660 makes it easy to ensure correct recording levels. "A one-touch button allows preview and testing, so you don't have to erase the testing, just re-adjust to the desired levels and go" remarked Jackson. He doesn't typically utilize this feature, but appreciates the possibility.

Another attractive feature of the PMD660 that supported Jackson's decision was the standardized accessories. The unit runs on "good old-fashioned batteries, not the rechargeable ones. That way I can run to the closest drug store to replace them" he stated. This is also true for the USB cable.

Jackson's website, www.schoolofpodcasting.com includes a podcast of the review and decision to purchase the PMD660.

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