

Did you know that, in the most basic sense, a microphone and a speaker are simply the same technology only reversed? A speaker sort of “decodes” electrical impulses to vibrate a flexible membrane called a speaker cone to create sound waves. A microphone works in reverse: it uses a much smaller flexible membrane to “feel” vibrations caused by sound waves, and then converts it back to electrical impulses.

So, if you ever find yourself in a situation where you want to record sound but don’t have a microphone available, you can simply plug in a regular set of headphones into the microphone jack. Then just talk into the earpiece! (You may have to speak up a bit louder than usual, but it should still work.) The headphone speakers will act just like a microphone and record your voice, other sounds, etc.! This should work on any recording device, from a cassette recorder to a computer.