

Using Zoom for Online Jams

Use this guide to learn how to set up your Zoom Workspace application for online jams. Applies to Windows, Macs, iPads, iPhones, Android Tablets and Phones.

Introduction

Zoom is a great way to share and participate in online music events, whether you are listening, playing along or leading the song. Zoom lets us collaborate with other musicians all across the globe, or across the street, using our choice of devices.

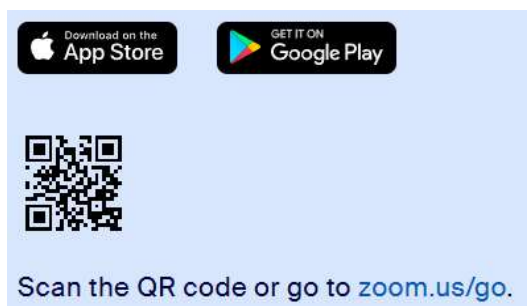
However, many folks have voiced frustrations and disappointment when the promise of crystal clear sound, vivid video and great camaraderie take a back seat to distorted sound, silent instruments and missing people.

This guide will walk you thru the important aspects of setting up your Zoom Workspace application for the best possible musical results

Installing the Zoom Workspace Application

In order to get started with Zoom, you must first install it on your device. The best place to obtain Zoom (it's FREE!) for a computer is from Zoom's main download link, here:

- <http://Zoom.com/download>



If you want to use Zoom on a mobile device (phone or tablet, iOS or Android), then go to your device's download store (App Store for Apple or Google Play for Android).

You can also scan the QR code to the left, or go to zoom.us/go on your browser to get started.

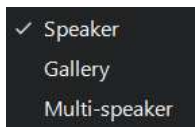
Note: For best results, make sure you have downloaded the latest version of Zoom Workspace. Features change all the time; this guide was built using Zoom for Windows 64-bit Version 6.5.1.

Launching Zoom

The easiest way to participate in a Zoom call is to follow the link someone has given you for the Zoom meeting. Most jams will be set up ahead of time, and the host will post or send you a “URL” (short for Uniform Resource Locator) which is a link you can click (or double-click) to take you to your meeting. Note: If your host also provides a “pass code”, remember it (or copy it) as you may have to type that in to join the meeting.

Yes, you can launch Zoom on your device and start your own meeting if you’d like; but you’ll have to let others know about your URL to join. For jams, we usually just click and join.

Zoom Views

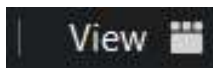


Before we configure your Zoom app for the best audio, it’s valuable to know that you have some control over what you see on the screen in a Zoom call, so let’s cover that first.

The default view you see with Zoom launches is called “**Speaker View.**” This view shows the person speaking in a large window, with other participants in smaller windows on the edge of your screen, usually along the top (but you can change that).

Another useful presentation to watch is called “**Gallery View.**” In this view, your main screen shows all the other participants in the meeting.

When more than one person is speaking, playing or presenting, you can switch to “**Multi-speaker View**” and all the presenters will share a large window. Speakers are automatically shown on the ‘stage’ when they speak, and are automatically removed after several seconds of silence.



To select a view, simply hover over (or tap) the screen and click the **<View>** button, then select the View Mode you wish to enable.

You can also “pin” someone on your device to always have them active in Speaker View. Just hover over their video, click the “...” option, then select **<Pin>**. To remove the pin, hover over their large video and click **<Remove pin>**. People won’t know you’ve pinned them unless you are sharing your screen.



Another way to see who is in the meeting and their audio and video status is to hover over the active screen and select **<Participants>**. This will open a side window showing a list of everyone in the meeting, and icons next to their names will show audio and video activity.

Configuring Your Audio Settings

This is where things can go terribly wrong. Mastering your Audio Settings is the key to having a great Zoom experience, so this is the most important part of this guide.

Note: Each person's Zoom Audio configuration will be slightly different due to the audio devices available to your computer, tablet or phone. This guide will lead you to water, but you need to drink it with the knowledge of your device and available options.

When you start a Zoom session, you will see an opening screen asking for you to enter your name or logon, and then a preview of your video and audio options (unless you've disabled it). You can click the microphone and the camera to enable/disable those for this session. We will assume you want to be seen and heard, so keep both enabled, and click **<Join>**.

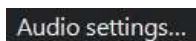


Once you have joined a meeting, you can set up your audio by hovering over the screen, then clicking the caret (^) just to the right of the **<Audio>** icon. This will launch...

The Audio Options Popup

In this window, you can **Select a Microphone**, **Select a Speaker**, **Test your selections**, **Leave Computer Audio** entirely, and launch the detailed **Audio Settings Dialog**, which we will cover in the next section.

In this Popup window, choose the device you want to use as your microphone, and the device you will use for your speakers. Then, select **<Test speaker & microphone>** to make sure they are working for you.

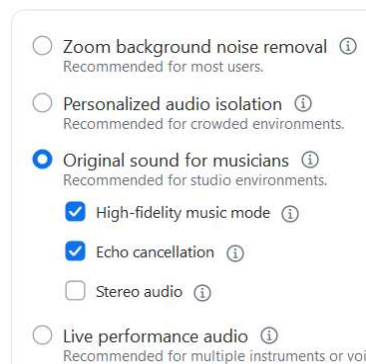


Stay in this popup and select **<Audio Settings>**. THIS is where the magic lies!

The Audio Settings Dialog

The Audio Settings Dialog also lets you select and test your Speaker and Microphone. But below those options you will find a section called **"Audio profile,"** and it looks like this:

Audio profile



The default selection is **"Zoom background noise removal"** which is used to isolate voices away from other noise or sound in the room. **This is the WORST SETTING for musical jams.**

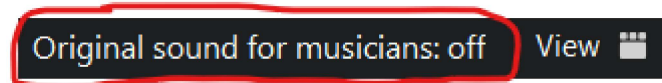
So, change your setting to **"Original sound for musicians."** Check the sub-options you want to use:

- **"High-fidelity music mode"**, and
- **"Echo cancellation"** if you are not using headphones).

Activating Original Sound For Musicians

You'd think we'd be all done now, right? Nope. Sorry. Zoom has one more hoop for you to jump thru before you can start strumming and singing.

Return to the meeting, hover over the screen, and look along the top of the window. You will see a button up there that looks like this (my button is adjacent to the <View> button, yours may differ):



You have to CLICK THAT BUTTON to change it to read **"Original sound for musicians: on"**. This will activate the audio mode that works for music.

NOW you are ready to strum and sing. And do that--before you start your song, do a quick sound check (you ARE on a stage, you know!) by playing and singing a few notes to make sure everyone can hear you OK. Then jam!

There's More, But Not Here

There is a LOT of additional information regarding how to set up your computer/tablet/phone for Zoom audio. Settings like AGC (Automatic Gain Control), audio volume (both playback and record), and lots more that will help you "tweak" your sound on Zoom. We won't cover those in this guide, but here are a few links you can click for more information:

- [Configuring professional audio settings for Zoom Meetings](#)
- [Managing advanced audio settings](#)
- [Adjust Your Audio Settings For Music Lessons In Zoom](#)
- [Changing Audio device settings inside of Zoom](#)

And if you'd like to visit THE Zoom Workspace Guru on the web, I highly recommend subscribing on YouTube to Betsy Sabatini's channel, The Zoom Playground:

- <https://www.youtube.com/@zoomplayground>

Also, if you have custom audio interface equipment you'd like to hook to your computer for a direct feed of your vocal microphone and/or electric instrument, consult your equipment manufacturer web site for instructions and tips.

That's it!

We can't wait to see and hear you on our next Zoom Jam!