

Find the microphone

First, find where your phone's microphones are located. They are usually at the bottom of the smartphone because that's where you'd speak into if you were making a phone call. Depending on your model they could also be an additional microphone by the camera(s)

Make sure that the microphone is not obstructed

Make sure that when you are recording, you don't have a case or your finger covering these microphones. By uncovering your microphones, you will prevent your recording from sounding muffled or garbled

Put the phone in airplane or do not disturb mode

Before you start recording, mute the device or put it in airplane mode. You don't want to interrupt your own audio with the ping of a new message or the rattling vibrations of an incoming phone call

Point the microphone in the noise direction

Most phone microphones are directional and if your microphone is pointed away from the main noise source, it will mainly record the echoes or reverberations of the noise. These echoes are hard to decipher and cause the audio quality to be very poor

Try to privilege a phone orientation that gives a good audio quality rather than a good view of the interested components (pictures are needed as well in any case to be submitted in a Noise Catalog case)

If you are not holding the telephone in your hand, set your smartphone on a soft, vibration-free surface so it won't rattle

Pay attention to the environment

When recording noises from the interior of the car, try to close the windows in order to reduce background disturbances (or wind noises if the noise is recorded while driving). When recording noises from the outside of a car and inside the workshop, try use a time of the day when the background noises are reduced. If you are recording outdoors, try and record with the wind to your back to reduce any unwanted wind noise.

Testing

Take a test recording if possible—then listen to it carefully to find any other issues you may encounter