

Zoom Sound Optimising

This is a brief guide to getting the best outgoing sound on Zoom (it won't improve how other people sound to you, but it should improve how you sound to other people)

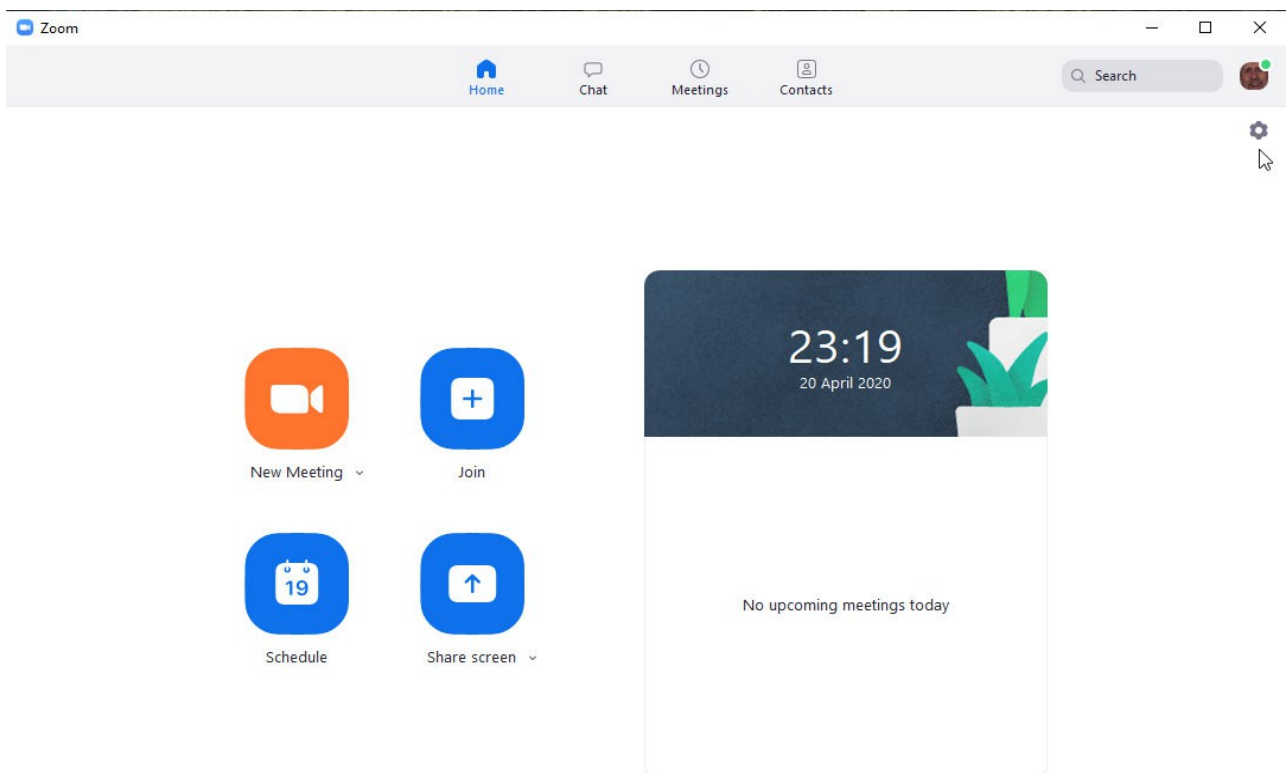
Zoom is really a meeting tool, so is optimised for speech, and may interpret your accompanying instrument as a background noise that should be suppressed. This can distort the sound of your instrument. By tweaking the settings you may be able to improve the combined sound.

As a general rule, tablets perform better than phones, PCs better than tablets.

I'm afraid we only have advice for Windows and Android. Hopefully we can add to this later.

Windows:

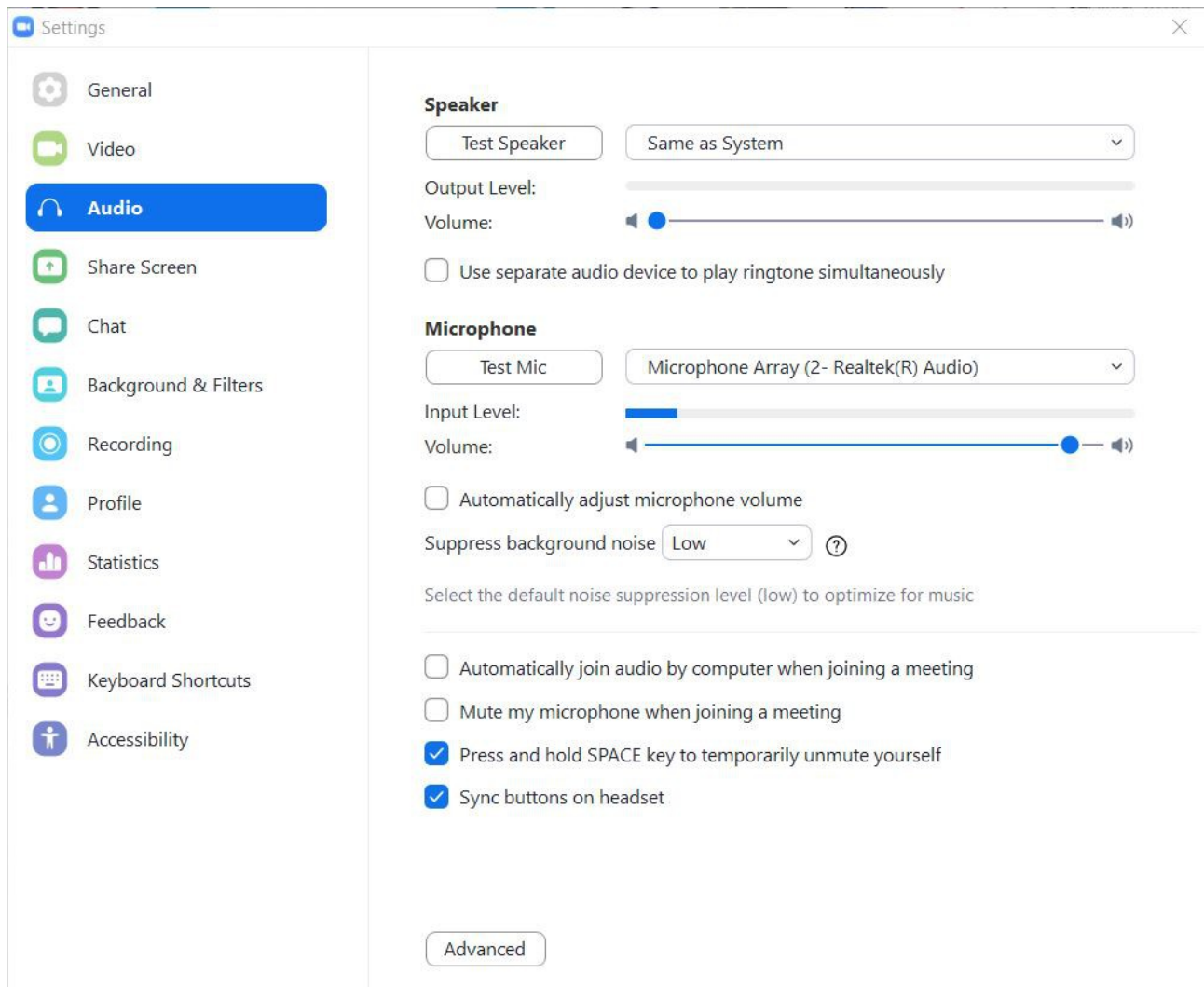
First: download the latest version of Zoom (version 5.3 at time of writing). When you open zoom and sign in you will see this screen:



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Left-click on your avatar (top right with green dot) and click "Check for updates".

When you are up-to-date, left-click on the gear symbol below the avatar to open the settings menu, and select "Audio" at the left. Set "Suppress background noise" to "Low". If you press "Test Mic" you can make a short recording and see how you sound, and set your input volume level. Best not to have "Automatically adjust volume" selected, but set the input volume manually, particularly if you play an instrument.



The screenshot shows the Zoom Settings window with the Audio tab selected. The left sidebar contains various settings categories: General, Video, Audio (highlighted), Share Screen, Chat, Background & Filters, Recording, Profile, Statistics, Feedback, Keyboard Shortcuts, and Accessibility. The main content area is divided into Speaker and Microphone sections. The Speaker section includes a 'Test Speaker' button, a dropdown menu set to 'Same as System', an 'Output Level' slider, and a 'Volume' slider. Below this is a checkbox for 'Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously'. The Microphone section includes a 'Test Mic' button, a dropdown menu set to 'Microphone Array (2- Realtek(R) Audio)', an 'Input Level' slider, and a 'Volume' slider. Below this is a checkbox for 'Automatically adjust microphone volume'. The 'Suppress background noise' dropdown is set to 'Low', with a help icon. A note below states: 'Select the default noise suppression level (low) to optimize for music'. At the bottom, there are three checkboxes: 'Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting' (unchecked), 'Mute my microphone when joining a meeting' (unchecked), and 'Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself' (checked). A fourth checkbox, 'Sync buttons on headset', is also checked. An 'Advanced' button is located at the bottom of the settings panel.

Settings

General

Video

Audio

Share Screen

Chat

Background & Filters

Recording

Profile

Statistics

Feedback

Keyboard Shortcuts

Accessibility

Speaker

Test Speaker Same as System

Output Level:

Volume:

Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously

Microphone

Test Mic Microphone Array (2- Realtek(R) Audio)

Input Level:

Volume:

Automatically adjust microphone volume

Suppress background noise Low ?

Select the default noise suppression level (low) to optimize for music

Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting

Mute my microphone when joining a meeting

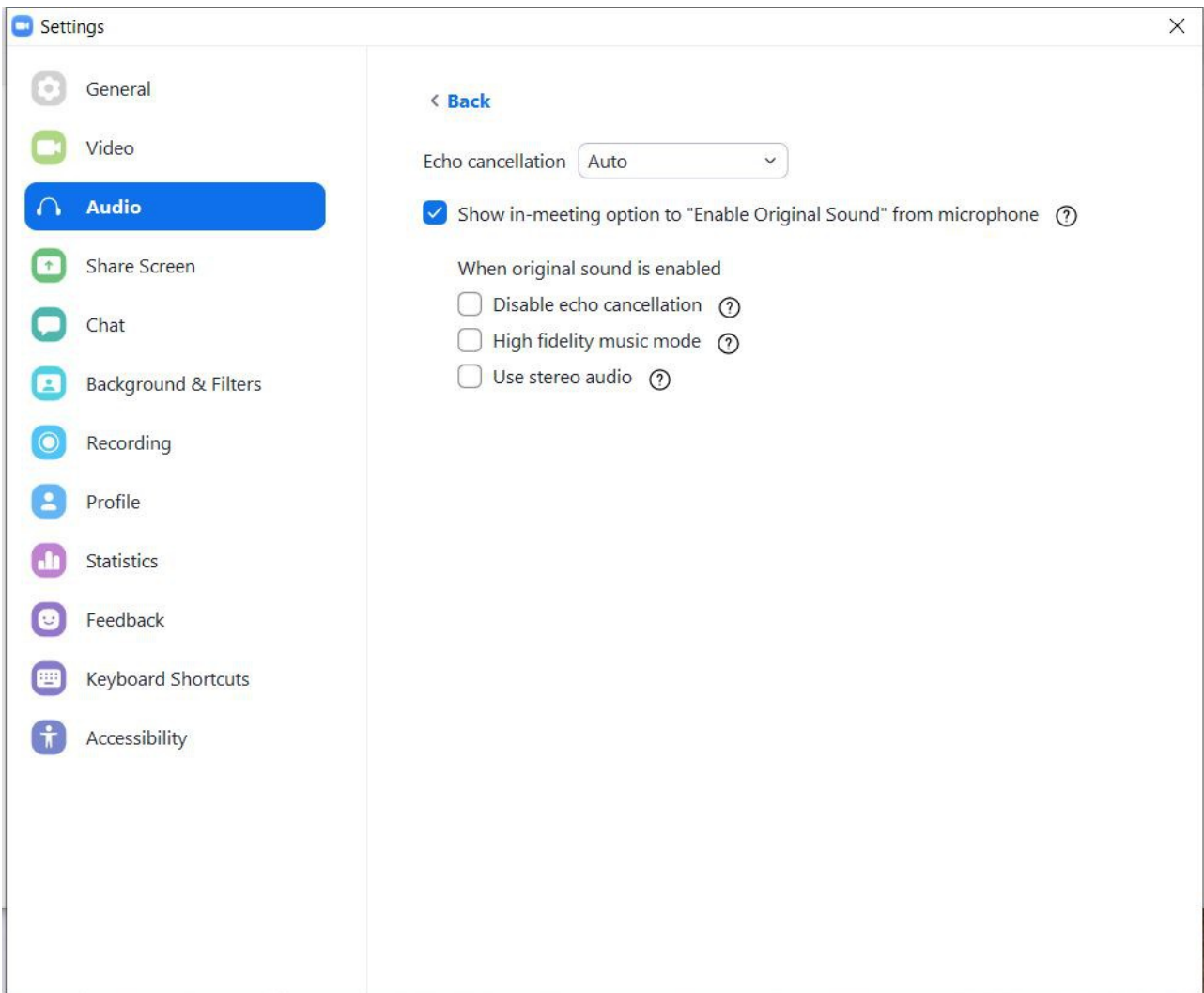
Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself

Sync buttons on headset

Advanced

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Now left-click "Advanced" at bottom right. You will get this screen:



Select "Show in-meeting option to 'Enable Original Sound' from microphone"
Set "Echo cancellation" to "Auto". In the "When original sound is enabled"
section, don't select any. Close the settings page (x top right) and you will be
back in the first page we have shown. You can then go back into settings and
re-check your mic, to see if it sounds better.

Once you have joined the meeting , click on the grey bar top left "Turn original
sound on": it will turn blue, and you are now set up! You need to do this every
time you join a meeting. Every other setting stays, but this one has to be re-
selected.

Android phone or tablet

When you go into the Zoom app there is a menu bar at the bottom of the
screen (you may need to touch the screen to bring it up). Select "Settings",
then "About". Select "Version" and it will check you are up to date (5.3 or
higher). Go back to the "Settings" menu (left arrow at top of page)and select
"Meeting". Scroll down the page and select "Use Original Sound". This will give

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you the option in the meeting to stop the app thinking your instrument is background noise to be suppressed. Unlike Windows, there is no option to do a sound check or set your volume manually. Return to "Settings" page as before.

You are now ready to join a meeting: "Meet and Chat" at bottom of page. Once in, touch the screen to bring up the bottom menu and select "... More", then "Enable Original Sound". You need to do this every time you join a meeting. Every other setting stays, but this one has to be re-selected.

Updated 04/10/2020 to align with version 5.3