

# Recording Video for YouTube

*a graphical primer for beginners*

## Introduction

So you want to record videos for YouTube using your computer, but don't know how to start? This graphical guide will take you through the basics of getting setup!

By the time you're done following these handful of steps, you should be able to record a very basic video.

## What You Need

- A computer (Windows, Mac, or Linux if you're a masochist)
- A web camera
- Infinite patience
- A personality - no one wants to watch a dead parrot... no one



## Step 1: Install Broadcasting Software

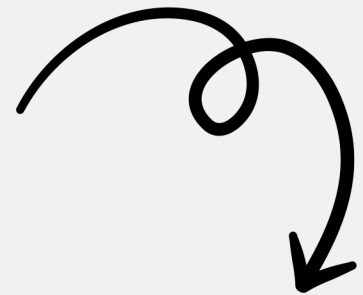
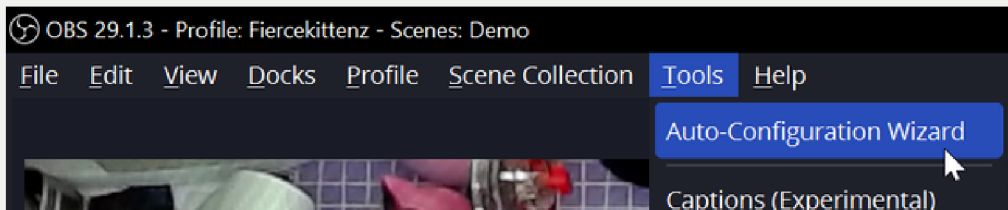


The best software you can use to record content from your computer is OBS. It's *free* and you can get it from [obsproject.com](https://obsproject.com). OBS will provide you with the tools you need to create new scenes, add multiple cameras, and graphical elements to enhance your recordings!

## Step 2: Configure OBS

To keep things very simple, we will use the automatic tooling available in OBS to configure our settings. This tool looks at your computer and determines the best settings for you.

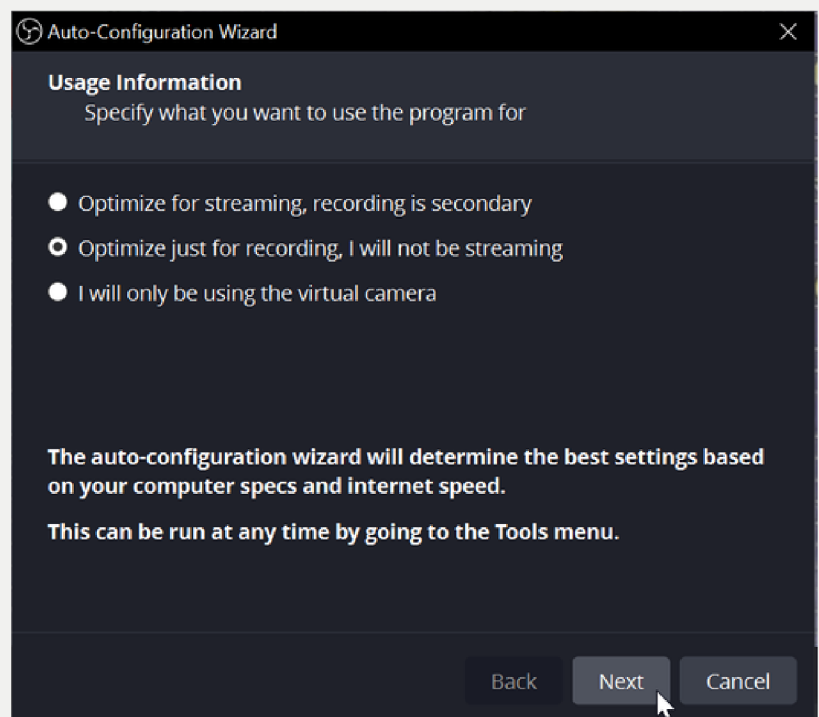
To access, go to the top-most menu, **Tools**, then one down for the **Auto-Configuration Wizard**.



Answer the prompts at each screen and walk through the configuration wizard by clicking the **Next** button.

Don't worry if you want to eventually live stream! You can go back and edit these settings directly once you understand the basics of OBS.

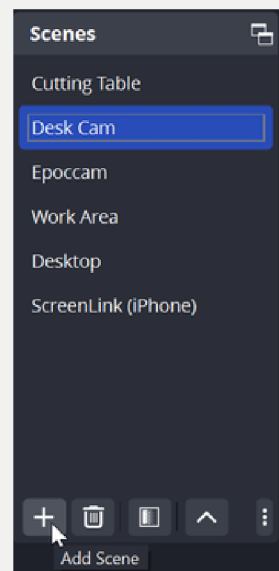
When you finish the wizard, you can move on to adding your first scene and camera!



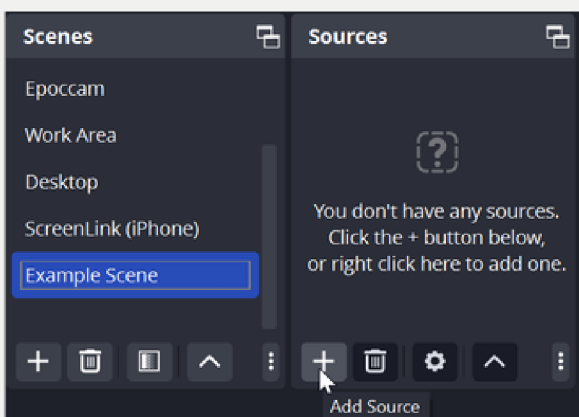
## Step 3: Set Up a Scene

Scenes are different views that you can toggle in OBS. Each scene can have different sources such as images, web browsers, videos, and cameras to build your look. These sources will be baked into your final video.

To add a new Scene, go to the **Scenes** panel and click the **+** button. Give your scene a logical name such as "Cutting Table" or "Desk Cam" so you know, at-a-glance, what that scene will show.

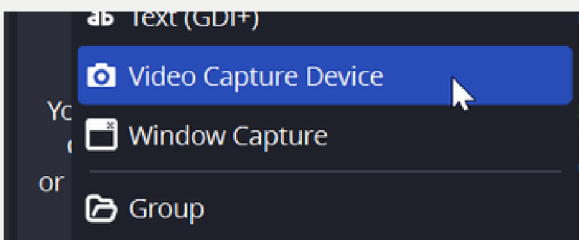


## Step 4: Add Your Camera



To add your camera, go to the **Sources** panel. By default, it is located to the right of the Scenes panel. Click the **+** button at the bottom of this panel to add a new source to the scene.

Choose "**Video Capture Device**" from the pop-up menu.



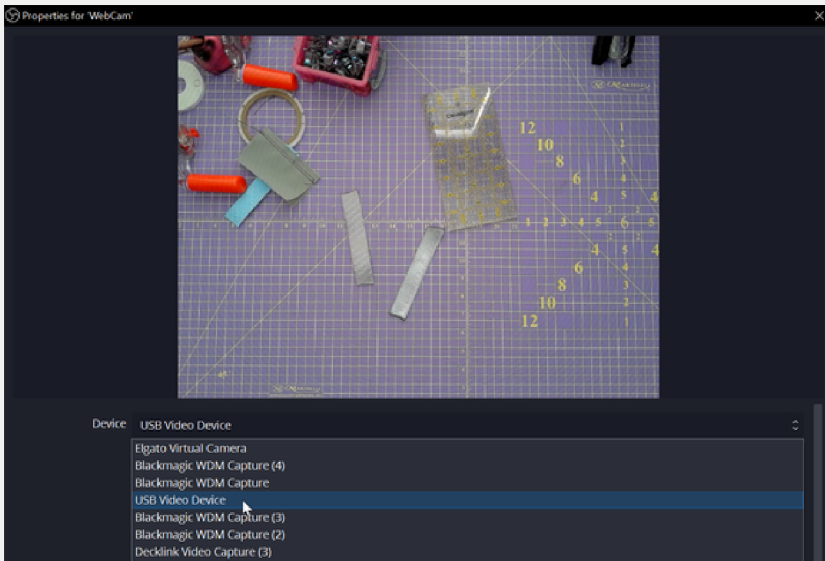
You will be given a prompt to name the source. Give it an appropriate name, like "WebCam" and click **OK**.

*continued...*

## No Camera Found???

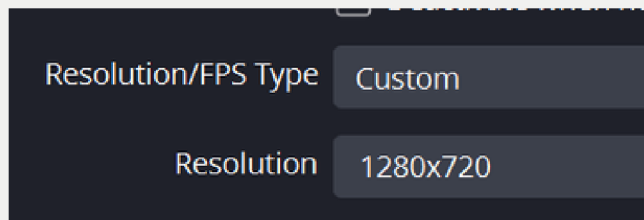
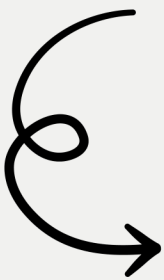
Don't see your camera in the list?  
Make sure you've installed the correct drivers from the camera's manufacturer and have it plugged in!





After you click **OK**, the settings dialog for this source will show up. From here, choose your web camera from the **Device** list.

To make sure your camera doesn't default to a really small resolution, you need to choose "Custom" for the **Resolution/FPS Type** and set the **Resolution** to 1280x720.



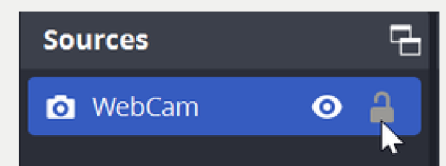
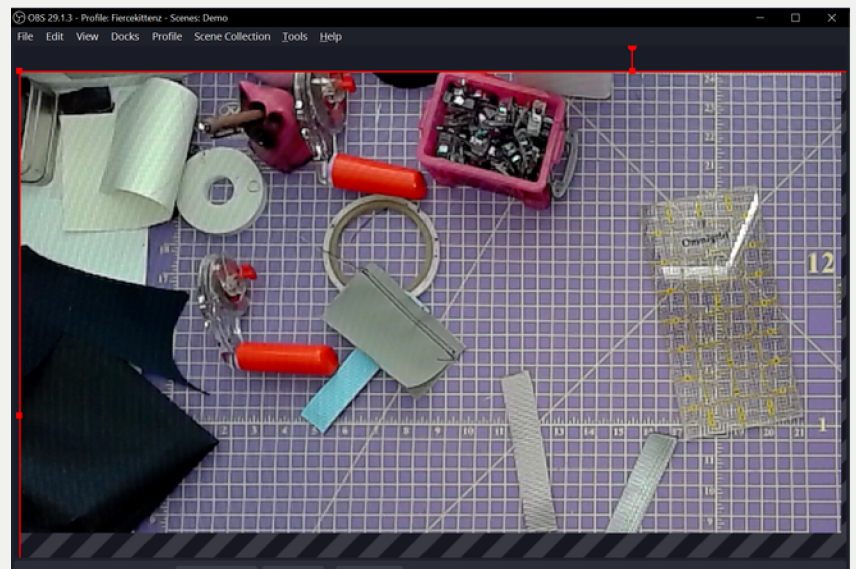
You can also choose 1920x1080, but you may experience performance issues if you do not have a beefy computer.

## Step 5: Make it Pretty

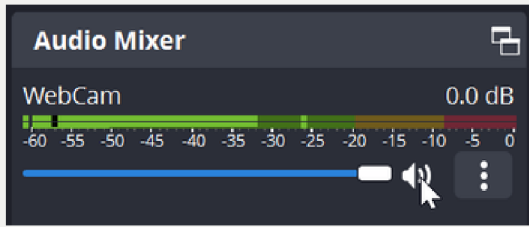
When your source is added, it will appear in the scene with a red border. You can now resize it to fit your screen by grabbing the **square sizing boxes** along the red border and moving them outward.

If you see light and dark gray slash marks, that is where your camera is extending beyond the frame of the scene. These portions will not be part of your final video recording.

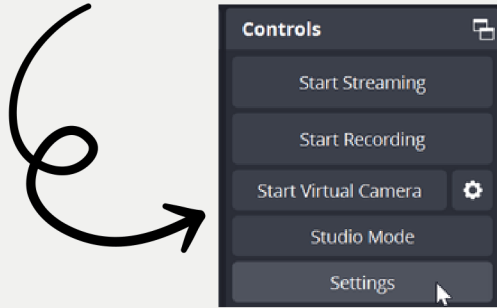
To prevent accidentally moving the camera source in the future, lock it by toggling the **lock icon** next to the source!



## Step 6: Microphone Setup



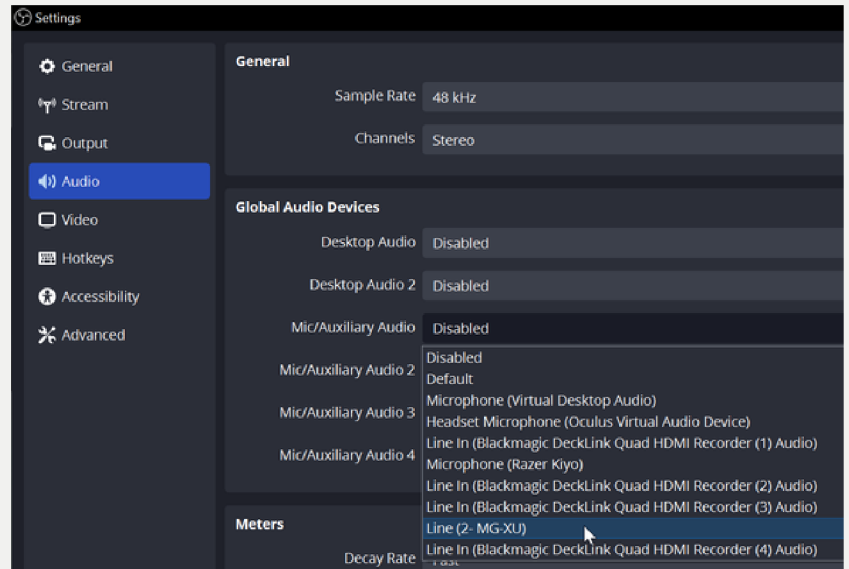
Your camera likely has a microphone on it, but if you don't want to use that, you can mute it in the **Audio Mixer** panel by clicking on the sound icon to the right of the volume slider. Then click on the **Settings** button in the **Controls** panel to open OBS' settings.



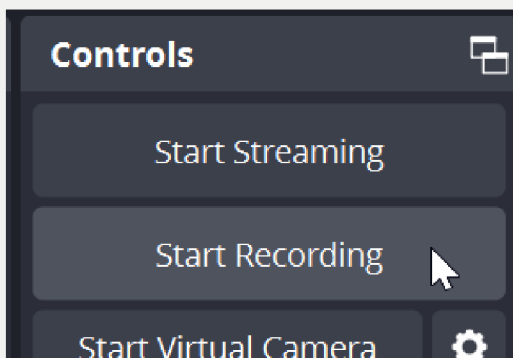
When starting out, using the camera's microphone isn't bad, but you'll probably want to look into a better microphone at some point since the built-in camera microphones introduce a lot of echo and noise.

In the **Audio** tab, you can choose the microphone you want to use from the **Mic/Auxiliary Audio** list.

As you can see from my list, I have a LOT of cameras that could be used, but I prefer to use my mixer and Shure microphone instead.



## Step 7: Test Recording



By default, the Controls panel is located to the bottom-right. Click the **Start Recording** button to make your first recording!

Congratulations! You've made your first recording! And with that, you've done a very basic setup. You can add more cameras and decorate your scenes with images or videos.

## Next Steps

Now that you have a basic understanding of setting up and recording with OBS, you can take your time delving into deeper topics! Here are a few suggestions:

- Use your **iPhone** as a camera source with **Elgato EpocCam**.
- Adding **multiple cameras** to one scene.
- Improving the **lighting** in your recording space for the best results.

