SOUNDMAP 101 · STEP 3 · AT HOME

Build in Echoes

In Echoes, each sound lives in a shape on the map. Where you draw it and how it plays are composing choices, not just technical ones.

Learn the parts · Draw your shapes · Choose a structure · Set playback

Three words to know

Walk

Your whole project: the sound map visitors open in the app.

Echo

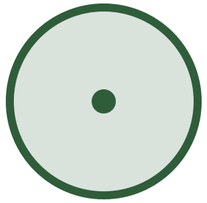
A shape on the map. Walk into it and what it holds begins to play.

Element

What lives inside an echo: a sound, text or an image.

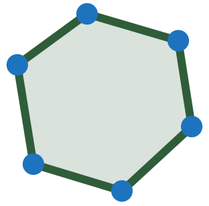
You build in the Creator web app on a computer. **Visitors walk** in the Explorer app on their phones.

Draw your shapes



Circle

A single stop: a bench, a view, a sound source.



Polygon

Any shape you draw, point by point. Trace a stretch of trail, a room or an area like a meadow.

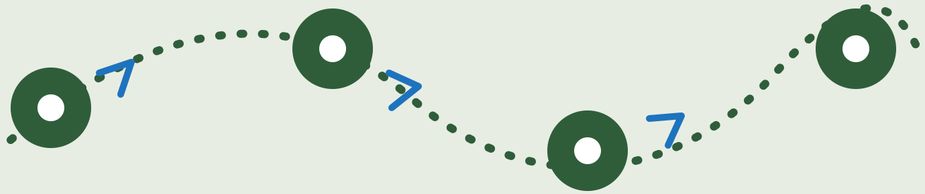
SIZING TIPS

Draw shapes bigger than you think. GPS drifts, especially under trees.

Cover the whole width of the path so no one walks around a stop.

Leave gaps between stops so one sound can finish before the next starts.

Choose a structure



Linear

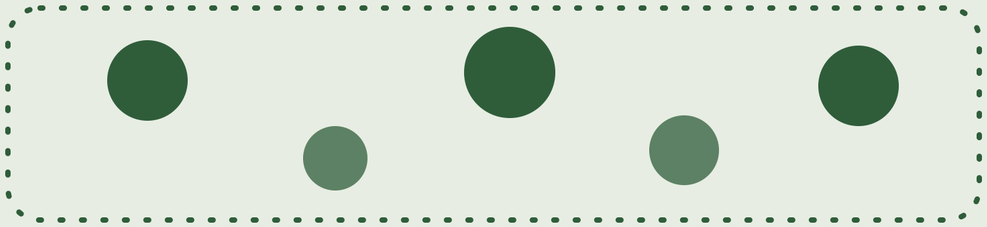
One path with stops in a set order, like a guided tour.

BEST FOR

Trails, loops, hallways and story walks.

WRITE IT SO

Each stop builds on the last. You can say “next” and “as you continue.”



Open-ended

No set route. Visitors wander and discover stops in any order.

BEST FOR

Lawns, plazas, gardens and galleries.

WRITE IT SO

Every stop stands on its own. Never assume what they heard before.

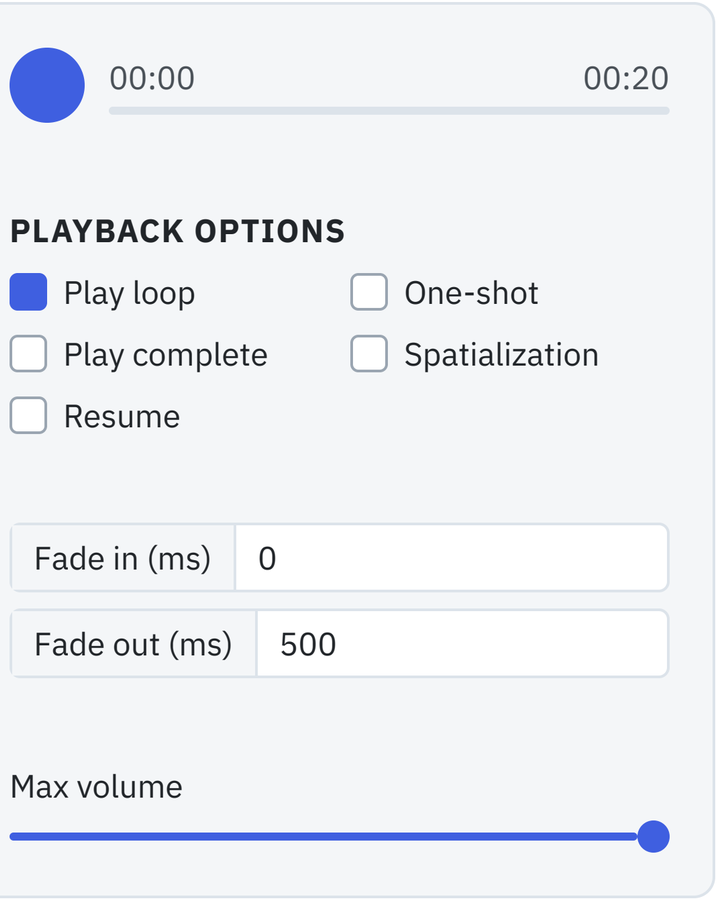
Set playback

Setting	What it does	Use it for
Play loop	Repeats while you're inside the shape	Ambience beds
One-shot	Plays once, then stays quiet	Narration, welcomes
Play complete	Keeps playing after you walk out	Narration that shouldn't cut off
Fade in / out	Eases sound in and out at the edges	Ambience, sound effects
Layering	Overlapping echoes play together	A bed under your stops

A GOOD DEFAULT

Narration: one-shot and play complete. Ambience: a loop with fades.

IN THE ECHOES CREATOR



Some things we've learned

From building prior walks in Echoes.

WHAT HAPPENED	SO NOW
Small circles sometimes missed	Draw bigger, or use polygons along the trail.
The fade setting topped out quickly	Build long fades into the file itself.
Streaming sometimes lagged	Download the walk to your phone before testing.
A tool sometimes didn't respond	Reload and try again, and leave extra time to build.

TRY IT · ABOUT 45 MINUTES AT HOME

Build your first stop

1. Start a new walk and find your site on the map.
2. Draw the stop you recorded in Step 2.
3. Add your narration and ambience, and set playback.
4. Draw a large, quiet bed under the whole route.
5. Preview the walk from your desk.

DONE WHEN

The preview plays your stop the way you meant it to, over a bed of ambience.

Then add the rest of your stops the same way.