

Mobile Podcasting: Gcast

Featured Product

Gcast

Web site: <http://gcast.com>

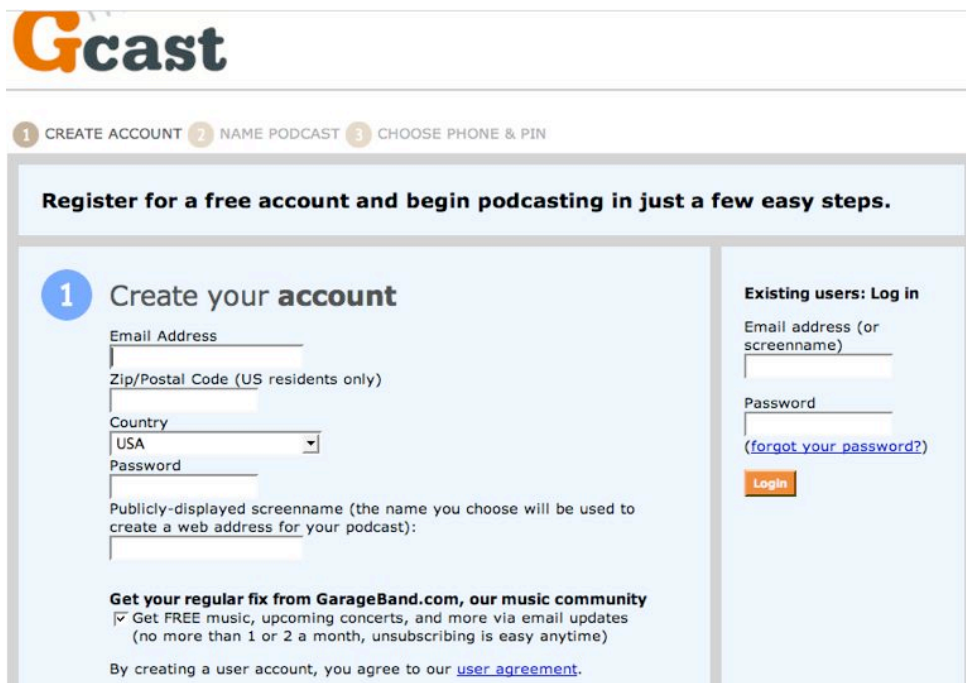
Developer: iLike, inc.

Cost: Free

Gcast is a free podcasting service. A key feature is the ability to record and upload a podcast via a cell phone!

Mobile podcasting is essentially podcasting by cell phone. You dial a special number, record your voice, and your voice gets published online. Mobile podcasting opens up a new realm of possibilities for teachers. For instance, you could take your students on a field trip, and they could record and publish their observations via cell phone. You could tour a museum or historical site and everyone could record and publish commentaries online, almost instantaneously.

There are several online services that enable you to record and publish a podcast via a cell phone or a landline. One of the best is Gcast, located at <http://gcast.com>. Gcast enables you to record a podcast and host it at their site for free! Once registered for the service, you call a special number, enter your ID and PIN code, and start recording. Your recording can then be saved automatically and, if you desire, added to the Internet as a podcast within five to ten minutes!



The screenshot shows the Gcast website's registration page. At the top is the Gcast logo. Below it is a progress bar with three steps: 1. CREATE ACCOUNT, 2. NAME PODCAST, and 3. CHOOSE PHONE & PIN. The main heading reads "Register for a free account and begin podcasting in just a few easy steps." The page is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "1 Create your account", contains a form with fields for "Email Address", "Zip/Postal Code (US residents only)", "Country" (a dropdown menu currently showing "USA"), "Password", and "Publicly-displayed screenname (the name you choose will be used to create a web address for your podcast)". Below the form is a checkbox for "Get your regular fix from GarageBand.com, our music community" with the text "Get FREE music, upcoming concerts, and more via email updates (no more than 1 or 2 a month, unsubscribing is easy anytime)". At the bottom of the left column is a line stating "By creating a user account, you agree to our [user agreement](#)." The right column, titled "Existing users: Log in", contains fields for "Email address (or screenname)" and "Password", a link for "(forgot your password?)", and a "Login" button.

Podcasting Options with Gcast

Option 1. Record by phone. You can record a podcast entry via a toll-free call to 888-65-GCAST (1-888-654-2278). You just need to select a numeric ID and PIN first. Whatever you record will automatically appear in your "Playlist Manager." You can publish your podcast directly from the phone.

Option 2. Upload MP3 files from your computer. You can record and mix an audio recording on your software of choice, such as Audacity, and then upload it to Gcast from your computer.

Option 3. Find "podsafe" songs on GarageBand.com. GarageBand is not Apple's podcasting software, but rather Gcast's sister web site and a leading source of "podsafe" music. Every GarageBand song page contains an "ADD TO PLAYLIST (+)" button which will add that song to your Playlist Manager.