

# Kick Drum Microphones

By George Petersen

**B**ack in the day, options for miking bass drums were few and far between. Among these were AKG's D12 or the venerable Sennheiser MD-421. However, over time, as the kick drum was transformed into the foundation of live mixing, a market opened for specialized mics for kick applications, with new high-SPL, plug-and-go models that required little or no EQ to provide a solid kick sound. Today, there are dozens of such models available — and even more, if you consider all the boundary-style mics suitable for the task. We looked into some current market offerings and found a huge selection to fit anyone's taste or budget. And in terms of cost, all include a street price here, so get kicking!


**Audix D6**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 30 Hz to 15k Hz  
**Weight:** 7.7 ounces  
**Notes:** VLM diaphragm for improved transient response  
**Street:** \$199

[audix-usa.com](http://audix-usa.com)


**Avantone MONDO**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 15k Hz  
**Weight:** 16 ounces  
**Notes:** Includes shock mount  
**Street:** \$125

[avantonepro.com](http://avantonepro.com)

**Beyer M99**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Hypercardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 30 Hz to 18k Hz  
**Weight:** 18.5 ounces  
**Notes:** Three onboard filter switches; includes shock mount.  
**Street:** \$499

[north-america.beyerdynamic.com](http://north-america.beyerdynamic.com)

**CAD Audio D88**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Supercardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 17k Hz  
**Weight:** n/a  
**Notes:** Integral swivel mount  
**Street:** \$199

[cadaudio.com](http://cadaudio.com)

**DPA d:vote 4099D**



**Type:** Condenser  
**Pattern:** Supercardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 20k Hz  
**Weight:** 1.4 ounces  
**Notes:** Requires d:vote VC4099 mounting clip (\$61)  
**Street:** \$619, less clip

[dpamicrophones.com](http://dpamicrophones.com)


**Drum Workshop Moon Mic**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 15k Hz  
**Weight:** 56 ounces (without stand)  
**Notes:** Phase and HP filter switches; 8-inch diaphragm.  
**Street:** \$399, including stand

[dwdrums.com](http://dwdrums.com)


**Miktek PM11**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Supercardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 50 Hz to 10k Hz  
**Weight:** 10.4 ounces  
**Notes:** Neodymium magnet; custom AMI transformer.  
**Street:** \$249

[miktekaudio.com](http://miktekaudio.com)

**Milab BDM-01**



**Type:** Condenser  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 20k Hz  
**Weight:** 7.4 ounces  
**Notes:** Transformerless design  
**Street:** \$700

[milabmic.com](http://milabmic.com)


**Morton Microphones KickTone**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 10k Hz  
**Weight:** 1.7 pounds  
**Notes:** Pickup combines 4" hemp cone with coaxial dynamic element  
**Street:** \$379, with stand or stand-less mount

[mortonmicrophones.com](http://mortonmicrophones.com)


**MXL A-55 Kicker**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 30 Hz to 15k Hz  
**Weight:** 19 ounces  
**Notes:** Integral swivel mount  
**Street:** \$99

[mxlmics.com](http://mxlmics.com)

**Sennheiser e902**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 40 Hz to 16k Hz  
**Weight:** 15.5 ounces  
**Notes:** Integral swivel mount  
**Street:** \$199

[sennheiser.com](http://sennheiser.com)


**Shure Beta 52A**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Supercardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 10k Hz  
**Weight:** 21 ounces  
**Notes:** Neodymium magnet; integral swivel mount.  
**Street:** \$189

[shure.com](http://shure.com)


**Sontronics DM1B**



**Type:** Condenser  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 20k Hz  
**Weight:** 28 ounces  
**Notes:** Switchable -15 dB pad  
**Street:** \$399

[sontronics.com](http://sontronics.com)


**Telefunken M-82**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 25 Hz to 18k Hz  
**Weight:** 22.4 ounces  
**Notes:** Onboard Kick EQ and High Boost switches  
**Street:** \$399

[t-funk.com](http://t-funk.com)

**AKG D112 Mk II**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 17k Hz  
**Weight:** 10.6 ounces  
**Notes:** Integral swivel mount  
**Street:** \$199

[akg.com](http://akg.com)

**Audio-Technica AE2500**



**Type:** Dynamic/Condenser  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 17k Hz  
**Weight:** 13.8 ounces  
**Notes:** Has dynamic and condenser capsules, each with separate output.  
**Street:** \$549

[audio-technica.com](http://audio-technica.com)


**Earthworks SR25**



**Type:** Condenser  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 50 Hz to 25k Hz  
**Weight:** 5.6 ounces  
**Notes:** Use with optional KP-1 KickPad EQ/pad for improved kick sound.  
**Street:** \$619

[earthworksaudio.com](http://earthworksaudio.com)

**E-V ND68**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Supercardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 11k Hz  
**Weight:** 13.2 ounces  
**Notes:** Neodymium magnet structure  
**Street:** \$199

[electrovoice.com](http://electrovoice.com)


**Heil PR-48**



**Type:** Dynamic  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 30 Hz to 8.5k Hz  
**Weight:** 20 ounces  
**Notes:** 45-degree XLR jack for easy connection  
**Street:** \$244

[heilsound.com](http://heilsound.com)

**Lewitt DTP-640 REX**



**Type:** Dynamic/Condenser (dual-element)  
**Pattern:** Cardioid  
**Frequency Response:** 20 Hz to 20k Hz  
**Weight:** 27 ounces  
**Notes:** Onboard pad and filter switches; twin capsule design.  
**Street:** \$329

[lewis-audio.com](http://lewis-audio.com)