

Kick Drum Microphones

By George Petersen

Capturing a kick drum may appear fairly easy. However, this source is more complex than it seems, with a blend of essential frequencies — the low-end boom and the midrange attack of the beater, which adds snap and transient punch. Meanwhile, there are “flabby” sounding frequencies in the 250 Hz to 600 Hz range that detract from the desired sound. As the kick drum became the foundation of live mixing, a market opened for specialized mics for kick applications — plug-and-go models requiring little or no EQ to provide a solid kick sound. Today, there are dozens of such mics available — and even more, if you consider all the boundary-style mics suitable for the task. We found a huge selection of current market offerings to fit anyone’s taste or budget. So get kicking!

AKG D112 Mk II

Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: 10.6 ounces
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: \$149



akg.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

Heil PR-48


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



heilsound.com

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

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



le Witt-audio.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

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

Avantone Pro MONDO

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



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: \$479



north-america.beyerdynamic.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

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: \$299, with stand or stand-less mount



mortonmicrophones.com

CAD Audio D88

Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: Not stated
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: \$199



cadaudio.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

MXL A-55 Kicker

Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 30 Hz to 15k Hz
Weight: 19 ounces
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: \$79



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

Earthworks SR20LS


Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 5.8 ounces
Notes: Durable stainless steel case
Street: \$479



earthworksaudio.com

Ehrlund EHR-D

Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 7 Hz to 87k Hz
Weight: 6 ounces
Notes: Triangular diaphragm
Street: \$999



ehrlund.se

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

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