

Interchangeable Mic Heads for Wireless Systems

By George Petersen

Adding mics to discover the model that's best with a vocalist is time well spent and what handheld works for one singer may not work for another. Besides the sound of the capsule itself, other factors include how the polar pattern meshes with stage monitor placement and the mic's on/off axis response — particularly important if your vocalist moves around a lot while singing.

Once upon a time, bringing a wireless rig into the picture meant selecting from a few mic offerings from that manufacturer. Fortunately, a growing number of wireless companies now offer interchangeable capsule options in their higher-end systems. These can open the door for nearly endless combinations of mic/transmitter pairings, from the manufacturer itself and third-party suppliers.

Unfortunately, there is no universal standard for interchangeable mic capsules, although the 1.25-inch/28-thread screw-on mounts used by Shure have been adopted by a number of companies. Yet incompatibility issues can still arise, particularly with voltage requirements of various condenser capsules — or even something as simple as a spacer ring to insure proper electrical contact. So check before you dive into a mix/match system, and check to see if they sell adapters to interconnect different capsules and transmitter bodies.

AKG



Models, Type

Dynamic: D5 WL1, D7 WL1 supercardioids.
Condenser: C5 WL1, C 535 WL1, C636 WL1 — both cardioids; C7 WL1 supercardioid.

Compatibility

For AKG HT4500: C5 WL1, C535 WL1, D7 WL1.
For DMS800/WMS4500: C7 WL1, C636 WL1.
For D5 handheld: D5 WL1.

Notes

Flagship C636 WL1 is pictured

Price

\$119 to \$499

akg.com

InfoComm Booth: N1105

Audio-Technica



Models, Type

Dynamic: ATW-C510 (ATM510 equivalent), ATW-C4100 (AE4100 style) — both cardioids; ATW-C6100 (AE6100) hypercardioid.
Condenser: ATW-C710 (ATM710 type), ATW-C3300 (AE3300) ATW-C5400, (AE5400) — all cardioid.

Compatibility

Work with A-T's 3000/6000 series, as well as other 1.25"/28-thread screw-mount handhelds

Notes

Flagship ATW-C5400 pictured

Price

\$99 to \$399

audio-technica.com

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Audix



Models/Type

Dynamic: CAOM2 (OM2), CAOM5 (OM5) — both hypercardioid.

Compatibility

Fits Audix Performance Series H60 handheld; other 1.25"/28-thread screw-mount transmitters

Notes

CAOM5 pictured; VX5 condenser version due in Summer 2018

Price

\$99 and \$159

audixusa.com

InfoComm Booth: C646

beyerdynamic



Models/Type

Dynamic: TG V50W, TG V90W cardioids; TG V90W hypercardioid.

Condenser: TG V56W, TG V96W — both cardioid.

Compatibility

Beyerdynamic TG-1000 series handheld transmitters

Notes

In addition to offering its vocal capsules, the \$249 TG MM1W (shown) is an omni measurement head for TG-1000 handhelds.

Price

\$129 to \$639

north-america.beyerdynamic.com

InfoComm Booth: C1628

DPA



Model/Type

Condenser: d:facto II supercardioid

Compatibility

Optional DPA adapters available for Lectrosonics, Sennheiser, Shure, Sony and Wisycom transmitters

Notes

Head unscrews from wired DPA body for use as wireless capsule; omni version also offered

Price

\$920 to \$1,049

dpamicrophones.com

InfoComm Booth: C682

Earthworks



Model/Type

Condenser: WL40V cardioid

Compatibility

Transmitters with 1.25"/28-thread screw-on mounts

Notes

Capsule adapted from Earthworks' wide bandwidth 40k Hz SR40V mic

Price

\$799

earthworksaudio.com

InfoComm Booth: C562

Electro-Voice



Models/Type

Dynamic: ND767a supercardioid.

Condenser: RE-510 supercardioid.

Compatibility

E-V REV handhelds

Notes

Also operate with many transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw mounts

Price

\$195 and \$339

electrovoice.com

InfoComm Booth: C1670

Heil Sound



Models/Type

Dynamic: RC 22 (PR 22 sound), RC 35 (PR 35 sound) — both cardioid.

Compatibility

Transmitters with 1.25"/28-thread screw mounts

Notes

RC 22 includes gold, chrome and black grilles. RC 35 is offered in chrome, black or (by special order) gold-plated finish.

Price

\$219 and \$260

heilsound.com

Lectrosonics



Models

Condenser: HHC, HHVMC — both cardioid

Compatibility

Lectrosonics HH-series Digital Hybrid wireless handheld. Also operates with many 1.25"/28-thread screw mount transmitters.

Notes

HHVMC version (shown) includes bass, midrange and treble adjustments.

Price

\$406 and \$430

lectrosonics.com

InfoComm Booth: C1265

Line 6



Model/Type

Condenser: V75-SC supercardioid

Compatibility

Line 6 XD-V75 handhelds or other 1.25"/28-thread screw-mount transmitters.

Notes

Available in black or chrome

Price

\$99

line6.com

InfoComm Booth: C1346

Neumann



Models/Type

Condenser: KK 104, KK 204 (cardioid); KK 105, KK 205 (supercardioid)

Compatibility

KK104/105: Sennheiser SKM 5000, SKM 5200 transmitters
KK 204/205: Sennheiser ew G3, SKM 2000, SKM 9000 series transmitters.

Notes

Available in black and nickel. Third-party Ambient adapter allows using capsules with certain transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw mounts.

Price

\$999

neumann.com

InfoComm Booth: C1660

sE Electronics



Model/Type

Dynamic: V7 MC1 supercardioid

Compatibility

Shure models with 1.25"/28-thread screw-on mounts

Notes

Same capsule as sE Electronics' wired V7 handheld model. Supercardioid polar pattern allows for ambient noise rejection, promising vocal isolation and natural signal reproduction. Combines sE Electronics' V7 MC1's aluminum voice coil and neodymium magnets with Shure wireless mic systems.

Price

\$129

seelectronics.com

InfoComm Booth: C347

Sennheiser



Models/Type

Dynamic: MMD 835, MMD 935, MMD 945 — all cardioid; MMD 845 supercardioid.

Condenser: MME 865 supercardioid; MMK 965 switchable cardioid/supercardioid.

Compatibility

Sennheiser ew G3, SKM 2000, SKM 9000 series transmitters.

Notes

Third-party Ambient (ambient. de) adapter allows using Sennheiser capsules with certain transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw mounts.

Price

\$99 to \$499

sennheiserusa.com

InfoComm Booth: C1660

Shure



Models/Types

Dynamic cardioid: RPW112 (SM58), RPW118 (Beta 58A), RPW174 (KSM8). Condenser cardioid: RPW122 (Beta 87C); RP114 (SM86).

Condenser supercardioid: RPW120 (Beta 87A).

Condenser multipattern: RPW184 (KSM9) supercardioid/cardioid; RPW186 (KSM9HS) hypercardioid/subcardioid.

Compatibility

Includes Shure Axient, Axient Digital, UHF-R, SLX, ULX, QLX, UR2 and PGX handhelds.

Notes

Also operate with many other transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw mounts.

Price

\$100 to \$587; RPW174 shown is \$470.

shure.com

InfoComm Booth: C1366

Sony



Models/Types

Condenser: CUC31 cardioid.

Dynamic: CUF31 supercardioid; CUF32 wide-cardioid.

Compatibility

Sony DWM-02 and DWZ series handheld transmitters.

Notes

Also operate with many other transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw mounts.

Price

\$245 to \$650

sony.com/proaudio

InfoComm Booth: C2363

Telefunken



Models/Type

Dynamic: M80-WH/M80-WH6 cardioid; M81-WH/M81-WH6 supercardioid

Compatibility

WH-versions operate with many third-party transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw-on mounts; WH6-versions support Line 6 transmitters.

Notes

M-80 heads available with black or chrome grills.

Price

\$249

telefunken-elektroakustik.com

Wiscom



Models/Types

Condenser: MCM301 custom Schoeps cardioid, MCM302 custom Milab cardioid; MCM303 custom Schoeps hypercardioid; MCM304 custom Milab omni, MCM306 custom DPA supercardioid.

Compatibility

Fit Wiscom MTH300 or MTH400 handhelds, or other 1.25"/28-thread screw-mount transmitters.

Notes

Cardioid MCM306 is pictured

Price

\$606 to \$1,122

wiscom.com