

Universal-Fit IEM Earpieces

By George Petersen

There's no surprise that in-ear monitoring systems have made a major impact in the way concerts are presented. Not only can performers hear themselves better than stage wedge mixes, but IEM use results in lowered stage volume. With a great IEM mix, the FOH engineer's task becomes simpler, audience get better sound and artists are happy — a definite example of a win-win-win-situation. While custom-fit IEMs are the preferred choice, off-the-shelf universal-fit models are an ideal solution when guest artists show up unexpectedly, or artists leave their customs on a plane, hotel room/etc. And besides being less costly, universals are a great backup option in case the artist's custom version gets run over by a forklift.

With that in mind, we decided to look at some current offerings in universal-fit earpieces for pro monitoring applications. URLs are provided should you require more information.

ACS Emotion Series

Fit: Custom or Universal
Transducer: Five drivers
Impedance: 83 Ohms
Sensitivity: 120.6 dB @ 0.1v
Isolation: Not stated
Color: Smoke
Price: TBA
Notes: Detachable cables



acscustom.com

64 Audio U12t

Fit: Universal
Transducer: 12 balanced drivers
Impedance: 12.6 Ohms
Sensitivity: 108 dB/1mW
Isolation: 20 dB
Color: Brushed aluminum
Price: \$1,999
Notes: Combines tia and apex technology



64audio.com

AKG IP2

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single driver
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 121 dB/1mW
Isolation: Not stated
Color: Dark gray-silver
Price: \$79
Notes: Sliding cable tie for tension adjustment



akg.com

Audio-Technica ATH-E70

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Three balanced armatures
Impedance: 39 Ohms
Sensitivity: 109 dB/1mW
Isolation: Not stated
Color: Black
Price: \$399
Notes: A2DC detachable cable



audio-technica.com

EarSonics S-EM9

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Nine drivers
Impedance: 38.5 Ohms
Sensitivity: 121 dB/1mW
Isolation: N.A.
Color: Black
Price: \$1,799
Notes: 3-channel cannula profile



earsonics.com

Etymotic Research ER-4 MicroPro

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single balanced armature
Impedance: 27 Ohms
Sensitivity: 108 dB/1mW
Isolation: 35 dB – 42 dB
Color: Black
Price: \$299
Notes: Earmold fit option



etymotic.com

Fender Pro Audio FXA7

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Dual tweeters, plus 9.25mm MF/LF
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 110 dB/1mW
Isolation: 22 dB
Color: Bronze
Price: \$499
Notes: Detachable MMCXi cable



fender.com

Fostex TE100

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Hybrid dynamic and balanced armature
Impedance: 17 Ohms
Sensitivity: 108 dB/1mW
Isolation: Not stated
Color: Black
Price: \$1,799
Notes: 6N-OFC detachable cable



fostexinternational.com

Future Sonics Spectrum Series G10

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Proprietary 10mm dynamic driver
Impedance: 32 Ohms
Sensitivity: 113 dB/1mW
Isolation: Up to 29 dB
Color: Black
Price: \$219
Notes: Crossover-free design



futuresonics.com

Galaxy Audio EB10

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Dual driver
Impedance: 22 Ohms
Sensitivity: 120 dB/1mW
Isolation: N.A.
Color: Clear
Price: \$279
Notes: Cleaning rod included



galaxyaudio.com

Jerry Harvey Audio Lola

Fit: Custom or Universal
Transducer: Eight drivers
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 105 dB @ 1 mW
Isolation: 25 dB
Color: Numerous color options
Price: from \$1,599
Notes: Variable (± 15 dB) bass control



jhaudio.com

Mackie MP-240

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single dynamic + single balanced
Impedance: 32 Ohms
Sensitivity: 94 dB/1mW
Isolation: Up to 40 dB
Color: Black
Price: \$199
Notes: Detachable MMCX cable



mackie.com

MiPro E-8P

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Balanced armature drivers
Impedance: 30 Ohms
Sensitivity: 116 dB/1mW
Isolation: 23 dB
Color: Beige
Price: \$172
Notes: Adjustable earhook design



mipro.com.tw

Point Source Audio EM-3

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single driver
Impedance: 32 Ohm
Sensitivity: 120 dB/1mW
Isolation: N.A.
Color: Silver
Price: \$99
Notes: Ear Guides route cable over the ears for increased comfort/stability



point-sourceaudio.com

Sennheiser IE 40 PRO

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single dynamic driver
Impedance: 20 Ohm
Sensitivity: Not stated
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Black or clear
Price: \$99
Notes: Wearable conventionally or looped around the ear



sennheiserusa.com

Sensaphonics 3D-U AARO

Fit: Universal or custom
Transducer: Full range single- or dual-driver
Impedance: N.A.
Sensitivity: N.A.
Isolation: up to 37 dB
Color: Black
Price: Single-driver, \$1,500; dual-driver, \$1,800
Notes: Active Ambient system with outboard module for tweaking mix from built-in binaural condenser mics



sensaphonics.com

Shure SE535

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Triple balanced-armature drivers
Impedance: 36 Ohm
Sensitivity: 119 dB/1mW
Isolation: 37 dB
Color: Clear or metallic red
Price: \$449
Notes: Detachable cable; earmold option available through Sensaphonics



shure.com

Sony MDR-7550

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single 16mm neodymium driver
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 108 dB/1mW
Isolation: Not stated
Color: Black
Price: \$229
Notes: Flexible ear hangers



pro.sony.com/bbsc

Westone UM Pro 50

Fit: Universal
Transducer: Five balanced armature drivers
Impedance: 45 Ohm
Sensitivity: 115 dB/1mW
Isolation: 25 dB
Color: Clear
Price: \$649
Notes: Replaceable MMCX cable.



westone.com