

Universal-Fit Earpieces for IEM Systems

By GeorgePetersen

In-ear listening systems can significantly improve nearly any show. The best option is earpieces with custom earmolds made by an audiologist that precisely match a performer's ear canal. Unfortunately, this is not possible in every situation, so let's examine some current offerings in universal-fit ear-

pieces. We should mention that companies such as JH Audio (jhaudio.com), Sensaphonics (sensaphonics.com) and Ultimate Ears (ultimateears.com) only make custom earmold products, which are not covered in this article. *Note: Unless otherwise noted, all prices quoted are street prices.*

ACST15

accustom.com

Transducer

Single driver

Impedance

41.5 Ohms

Sensitivity

n/a

Isolation

26 dB

Color

Black

Notes

Earmold fit option, Kevlar reinforced cable.

Company also makes custom earmold models? Yes



Price

\$229

earsonics.com

Earsonics SM3-V2

Transducer

Three drivers

Impedance

34 Ohms

Sensitivity

122 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a

Color

Black

Notes

Replaceable cable.

Company also makes custom earmold models? Yes



Price

\$499

AKG IP 2

akg.com

Transducer

Single driver

Impedance

16 Ohms

Sensitivity

121 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a

Color

Dark gray-silver

Notes

Sliding cable tie for tension adjustment.

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$79

etymotic.com

Etymotic Research ER-4 MicroPro

Transducer

Single balanced armature

Impedance

27 Ohms

Sensitivity

108 dB/1mW

Isolation

35dB - 42dB


Color

Black

Notes

Earmold fit option.

Company also makes custom earmold models? Yes



Price

\$249

Audio-Technica

audio-technica.com

Transducer

Single neodymium driver

Impedance

32 Ohms

Sensitivity

100 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a

Color

Black

Notes

Locking mini-plug connector.

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$119

futuresonics.com

Future Sonics Atrio

Transducer

Single 10mm driver

Impedance

32 Ohm

Sensitivity

112 dB/1mW

Isolation

<30 dB

Color

Black

Notes

Proprietary mg7 transducers.

Company also makes custom earmold models? Yes



Price

\$179

Galaxy Audio EB-10

galaxyaudio.com

Transducer

Dual driver

Impedance

22 Ohms

Sensitivity

120 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a

Color

Clear

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$279

Hear Technologies Hearbud Headset Monitors

hearttechnologies.com

Transducer

Single driver

Impedance

32 Ohm

Sensitivity

n/a

Isolation

n/a


Color

Blue-black

Notes

Combines standard-sized earbud with soft, molded Hearbud extensions that fit into ear canal.

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$35

Logitech UE 900

logitech.com

Transducer

Quad balanced armatures

Impedance

30 Ohms

Sensitivity

105 dB/1mW

Isolation

26 dB

Color

Blue-silver

Notes

Designed by Ultimate Ears.

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$399

Point Source Audio EM-3

point-sourceaudio.com

Transducer

Single driver

Impedance

32 Ohm

Sensitivity

120 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a


Color

Silver

Notes

Unique "ear guide" routes cable over the ear for increased comfort/stability.

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$89

sennheiserusa.com

Sennheiser IE 60

Transducer

Single neodymium driver

Impedance

16 Ohm

Sensitivity

n/a


Isolation

29 dB

Color

Black

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$249

shure.com

Shure SE535

Transducer

Triple balanced-armature drivers

Impedance

36 Ohm

Sensitivity

119 dB/1mW

Isolation

<37 dB

Color

Clear or metallic bronze

Notes

Detachable cable; earmold option available through Sensaphonics.

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$499

pro.sony.com

Sony MDR-7550

Transducer

Single 16mm neodymium driver

Impedance

16 Ohms

Sensitivity

108 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a


Color

Black

Notes

Flexible ear hangers

Company also makes custom earmold models? No



Price

\$299

westone.com

Westone UM3X

Transducer

Triple driver

Impedance

56 Ohm

Sensitivity

124 dB/1mW

Isolation

n/a

Color

Clear-black

Notes

Three-way crossover; also available as UM3X RC with removable cable

Company also makes custom earmold models? Yes



Price

\$379