

By GeorgePetersen

Interchangeable Mic Heads for Wireless Systems

Finding the right mic that works with a particular vocalist can often make a huge difference in the sound of your show. Different makes and models of handheld mics can vary greatly in sound, and what works for one singer may not work for another. Besides the sound of the capsule itself, there are other factors to consider, such as the polar pattern and how that works with stage monitor selection and placement. And almost equally important is the mic's on/off axis response, particularly if your vocalist tends to move around a lot while singing.

So you finally select just the right handheld. Once upon a time, bringing a wireless rig into the picture meant selecting

from a few mic transmitter offerings from that manufacturer, which often solved the "what's best for me?" issue. However, a growing number of wireless companies are offering interchangeable capsule options in their higher-end systems. These can open the door for nearly endless combinations of mic/transmitter pairings, from both the manufacturer itself and sometimes, third-party suppliers as well.

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, even so, incompatibility issues may arise, particularly with voltage requirements of various

condenser capsules or when trying to interface with an older system, so it's best to check with your manufacturer before you experiment with a mix/match system. Also various companies — such as Ambient (ambient.de) and Rat Sound (rat-soundsales.com) — also market adapters for interconnecting capsules and transmitter bodies from different makers.

That said, the options — whether within your own wireless supplier's offerings or adding in third party products — are many, making the creation of a custom "dream" system a reality. In checking out the market, we uncovered plenty of possibilities, and present this selection of some of the available capsules on the market that might work with your rig.

AKG

akg.com

Models
Supercardioid dynamic: D5 WL1, D7 WL1. Cardioid condenser: C5 WL1, C 535 WL1.

Fits
Any AKG HT 4500 transmitter.

Notes
GN 15 Ht Gooseneck head also available.

Price (D5 WL1) **\$119**



dpamicrophones.com

DPA

Model
d:facto II

Type
Condenser

Pattern
Supercardioid

Fits
Optional DPA adapters available for Lectrosonics, Shure, Sennheiser, Sony and Wiscom transmitters.

Notes
Head unscrews from wired DPA body for use as wireless capsule.

Price **\$899**



Audix

audixusa.com

Models
T363-CA (OM3); T365-CA (OM5); T366-CA (OM6); T367-CA (OM7)

Type
Dynamic (all)

Pattern
Hypercardioid (all)

Fits
Any Audix RAD-360 transmitter.

Notes
Third-party adapter from Rat Sound allows using Audix heads with transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw-on mounts.

Price (T367-CA) **\$249**



earthworksaudio.com

Earthworks

Model
WL40V

Type
Cardioid

Pattern
Condenser

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

Notes
Capsule adapted from company's SR40V mic.

Price **\$899**



Beyerdynamic

north-america.beyerdynamic.com

Models
RM 510 (cardioid ribbon); DM 969 S (supercardioid dynamic); DM 960 (hypercardioid dynamic); EM 981 S (condenser cardioid).

Fits
Beyerdynamic Opus S 600, S 910 and TG-1000 series transmitters.

Notes
RM 510 is the first ribbon capsule made for wireless transmitters.

Price (RM 510) **\$459**



electrovoice.com

Electro-Voice

Models
Dynamic: RC2-767, RC2-967 (supercardioid). Condenser: RC2-410 (cardioid), RE-510 (supercardioid).

Fits
E-V's REV and RE-2PRO transmitters.

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

Price (RE-510) **\$339**



Heil

heilsound.com

Models
RC 22, RC 35

Type
Dynamic

Pattern
Cardioid

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

Notes
RC 22 includes gold, chrome and black grills. RC 35 is black only.

Price (RC 22) **\$219**



Shure

shure.com

Models
Dynamic cardioid: RPW112 (SM58), RPW118 (Beta 58A). Condenser: RPW120 (Beta 87A) supercardioid; RPW122 (Beta 87C) cardioid; RP114 (SM86) cardioid; RPW184 (KSM9) supercardioid/cardioid; RPW186 (KSM9HS) hypercardioid/subcardioid.

Fits
Shure Axient, UHF-R, SLX, U LX.

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

Price (RPW184) **\$539**



Lectrosonics

lectrosonics.com


Models
HHC (cardioid); HHS (supercardioid)

Type
Condenser

Fits
Lectrosonics HH-series Digital Hybrid wireless handheld transmitter.

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

Price (HHC) **\$395**



Sony


sony.com/proaudio

Models
Condenser: CUC31 (cardioid). Dynamic: CUF31 (supercardioid), CUF32 (wide-cardioid).

Fits
Sony DWX and DWZ series handheld transmitters.

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

Price (CUC31) **\$850**



Neumann

neumannusa.com

Models
KK 204 (cardioid); KK 205 (supercardioid)

Type
Condenser

Fits
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-on mounts. Sony also makes an adapter for using Neumann capsules on Sony digital wireless systems.

Price (KK 205) **\$999**



Telefunken

telefunken-elektroakustik.com

Models
M80-WH/WH6, M81-WH/WH6

Type
Dynamic

Pattern
Cardioid

Fits
WH-versions operate with many third-party transmitters having 1.25"/28-thread screw-on mounts; WH6-versions support Line6 transmitters.

Notes
M-80 heads available with black or chrome grills.

Price (M81-WH/WH6) **\$249**



Sennheiser

sennheiserusa.com

Models
Dynamic: MMD 835 (cardioid), MMD 845 (supercardioid), MMD 935 (cardioid); MMD 945 (cardioid). Condenser: MME 865 (supercardioid), MMK 965 (switchable cardioid/supercardioid).

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

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

Price (MMK 965) **\$499**





Coming Next Month

In the March 2013 Buyers Guide: Dual-15/Dual 18 Subwoofers