

By GeorgePetersen

# Headworn Microphones

Over the years, headworn microphones have evolved from clunky, low-fi affairs into lightweight, nearly invisible transducers capable of serious audio quality that can equal or best many handheld mics. Once mainly relegated to singing drummers and keyboardists, today's headworn mics are more frequently becoming the choice of lead vocalists, classical soloists, live theatre performers, as well as for singers and spoken word in houses of worship applications.

Besides interfacing with beltpack transmitters in wireless systems, these are also often also employed in a hard-wired configuration. Nearly all of these mics operate from a low voltage (in the 1.5 to 12 VDC range) that would be sup-

plied via the beltpack, and would require a voltage adapter (available from most mic manufacturers) for direct connection to standard 48 VDC console phantom power. So in such applications, simply cutting off the miniature connector and replacing it with a full-size XLR will only result in damaging the mic.

We checked out some headworn mics from a variety of manufacturers and encountered a wide selection in a variety of prices (all given in MSRP), terminations for various systems, and both headband and earworn styles to fit the individual preferences of any vocalist or presenter. It should be noted that most suppliers also carry headworn mic models in other styles and prices, so websites are listed, if you require additional information.

Beyerdynamic TG H54c



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Cardioid

**COLORS**  
Beige, black

**TERMINATION**  
Mini 4-pin XLR-F


**NOTES**  
Optional CV 18 for phantom powering; similar omni model also avail.

Price

\$229

beyerdynamic.com

DPA d:fine



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omni and directional versions available

**COLORS**  
Black, brown, beige and lime green.

**TERMINATION**  
Microdot; adapters available to XLR hard-wire and all major wireless systems.


**NOTES**  
Left/right switchable; also single-ear, short/long boom versions offered.

Price

\$620

dpamicrophones.com

AKG HC577 L



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omni

**COLORS**  
Beige

**TERMINATION**  
3-pin Mini-XLR-F

**NOTES**  
Can mount on either side; push-on presence cap boosts 12 kHz range by 3 dB; optional phantom adapter for hardwire applications.

Price

\$449

akg.com

Audix HT2



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Supercardioid

**COLORS**  
Black

**TERMINATION**  
Mini-XLR-F

**NOTES**  
Wired 48V phantom XLR (HT2P) version also offered.

Price (MSRP)

\$215

audix-usa.com

Countryman H6



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omni; directional model also offered.

**COLORS**  
Light beige, tan, cocoa, black.

**TERMINATION**  
Available unterminated or for all major pro wireless systems.

**NOTES**  
High-strength detachable cables can easily swap to fit different wireless models; left/right side wearable boom; removable caps can vary HF response to individual needs.


Price

\$670-\$695\*

\*Depends on termination

countryman.com

Electro-Voice RE97TX



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige, brown or black

**TERMINATION**  
TA4F wired for E-V/Telex beltpacks.

**NOTES**  
135 dB handling.

Price

\$495

electrovoice.com

Audio-Technica BP893



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omni

**COLORS**  
Black, beige

**TERMINATION**  
Available unterminated or for all major pro wireless systems.

**NOTES**  
Onboard 80 Hz rolloff switch

Price

\$339

audio-technica.com

Avlex HSP-49



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Black, beige or cocoa brown.

**TERMINATION**  
Ships with Mipro adapter; optional adapters available for most major wireless beltpacks and wired XLR use.


**NOTES**  
Includes two screw-on replaceable cables

Price

\$275

avlex.com

Crown CM-311AE



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Cardioid

**COLORS**  
Black

**TERMINATION**  
Unterminated

**NOTES**  
CM-311A (hard-wired version) operates with battery/phantom- powered belt pack.

Price

\$499

crownaudio.com

Lectrosonics HM172



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige

**TERMINATION**  
TA5F wired for Lectrosonics UHF beltpacks.

**NOTES**  
Removable HF peak cap adds control of excessive high frequencies

Price

\$395

lectrosonics.com

Line 6 HS 70



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Tan, black

**TERMINATION**  
TA4F “mini XLR”


**NOTES**  
Designed for Line 6 V75-BP, V70-BP, V55-BP, Relay G90 and G50 bodypacks.

Price

\$199

line6.com

Point Source Audio CO-5w



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige

**TERMINATION**  
TA4F, lockable 3.5mm, Hirose


**NOTES**  
Waterproof and sweat/makeup-proof design.

Price

\$335

point-sourceaudio.com

Sanken COS-11D HWM-R



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige, cocoa

**TERMINATION**  
Available unterminated or with connectors for major wireless systems.

**NOTES**  
Same capsule as COS-11D lavalier

Price

\$695-\$795\*

*\*Depends on termination*  
www.sanken-mic.com

Sony ECM-322BC



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Black

**TERMINATION**  
Sony 4-pin SMC9-4P for use with Sony WL-800 Series bodypacks.


**NOTES**  
Can be worn on left or right ear.

Price

\$200

sony.com/proaudio

Mogan Elite



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige or black

**TERMINATION**  
Available for Shure, AKG, Sennheiser or Audio-Technica bodypacks.


**NOTES**  
Interchangeable cables with attached plugs allow easily switching between several models of transmitters.

Price

\$400

moganmicrophones.com

Que Audio DA12



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige, black

**TERMINATION**  
Optional adapters fit all major wireless systems.

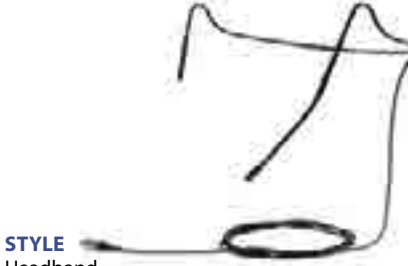
**NOTES**  
Left/right side wearable; “Petite” model also available for smaller heads.

Price

\$339 (plus \$29.95 adapter)

queaudiousa.com

Sennheiser HS2



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige, black

**TERMINATION**  
Unterminated or with connectors for major wireless systems.


**NOTES**  
Integrated MKE2 Gold capsule; Umbrella Diaphragm™ protects diaphragm from sweat.

Price

\$389-\$449\*

*\*Depends on termination*  
sennheiserusa.com

Voice Technologies VT910



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige

**TERMINATION**  
Available unterminated or with connectors for most wireless transmitters.


**NOTES**  
Wearable on left or right side.

Price

\$169-\$231\*

*\*Depends on termination*  
vt-switzerland.com

Peavey PV-1



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Black

**TERMINATION**  
Mini 3-pin XLR-F


**NOTES**  
Boom adapts for left or right side.

Price

\$27.99

peavey.com

RODE HS-1



**STYLE**  
Headband

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Pink, black

**TERMINATION**  
RODE MiCon, with optional adapters fit all major wireless systems.


**NOTES**  
Detachable Kevlar reinforced cable.

Price

\$499 (plus adapter, \$29-\$43)

rodemic.com

Shure MX 153



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Black, tan and cocoa

**TERMINATION**  
TA4F connector for connecting to Shure bodypacks.


**NOTES**  
Wearable on left or right side; Kevlar-reinforced soft flex cable.

Price

\$249

shure.com

Wi Sure-Fit EL Series



**STYLE**  
Earworn

**TYPE**  
Condenser

**PATTERN**  
Omnidirectional

**COLORS**  
Beige

**TERMINATION**  
Includes twist-on adapters for AKG, A-T, Sony and Sennheiser beltpacks.

**NOTES**  
Removable, replaceable cable. Included accessories convert mic from earworn to lavalier or instrument mount.

Price

\$319

widigitalsystems.com