By GeorgePetersen Handheld Condenser Microphones

Dynamic microphones have pretty much been the standard in vocal performance mics for decades. However, if you're looking for extended bandwidth and fast transient response in a handheld, a condenser mic is just the ticket.

With that in mind, we present this look at some current condenser models. All models listed require phantom powering. No frequency response data is given; simply stating that a mic has a 20 Hz to 20 kHz spec is fairly meaningless, and many models include LF or upper mid presence boosts to add character or intelligibility, so a "flat" response is rarely desirable.

Weight is often a factor, particularly when using a handheld mic over extended periods with certain vocalists. And MSRP list pricing is listed; microphones are often greatly discounted and "street" pricing can vary dramatically.





Max SPL: 145 dB Sensitivity: 4 mV/Pa

Self Noise: 25 dB (A) Weight: 12.2 oz.

Notes: Presence boost adapter offers two tonal choices.

MSRP: \$220

akg.com

Apex 515



Pattern: cardioid/omni/supercardioid Max SPL: 134 dB

Sensitivity: 13.8 mV/Pa Self Noise: 17 dB (A)

Weight: n/a

Notes: Includes three interchangeable capsules.

MSRP: \$129

apexelectronics.com

Audio-Technica AE5400



Pattern: cardioid **Max SPL:** 157/147 dB (pad in/out)

Sensitivity: 10.0 mV/Pa Self Noise: 14 dB (A)

Weight: 11.6 oz.

Notes: Same capsule as AT4050 studio mic; 10 dB pad; LF roll-off.

MSRP: \$529

audio-technica.com

Miktek PM5



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 142 dB Sensitivity: 18 mV/Pa

Self Noise: 19 dB (A)

Weight: 10.4 ounces

Notes: Handheld version of C5 studio

MSRP: \$999

miktekaudio.com

Milab LSR-3000



Pattern: cardioid **Max SPL:** 150/138 dB (pad in/out)

Sensitivity: 13 mV/Pa Self Noise: 21 dB (A) Weight: 10.4 ounces

Notes: 12 dB pad and 80 Hz low-cut switches.

MSRP: \$1,116

milabmic.com

leumann KMS 105



Pattern: supercardioid Max SPL: 150 dB

Sensitivity: 4.5 mV/Pa Self Noise: 18 dB (A)

Weight: 10.6 ounces **Notes:** Cardioid KMS104 version also

available.

MSRP: \$998

neumannusa.com

earl TLC 90



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 144 dB

Sensitivity: 8 mV/Pa Self Noise: 26 dB (A)

Weight: 10.2 ounces

Notes: LED power/phantom-on indi-

MSRP: \$721

pearl.se

Audix VX10



Pattern: cardioid

Max SPL: 138 dB Sensitivity: 24 mV/Pa

Self Noise: 19 dB (A)

Weight: 11.2 ounces

Notes: Low-output model (VX10 Lo) also offered for use on loud stages or extremely powerful vocalists.

MSRP: \$590

audixusa.com



Pattern: cardioid

Self Noise: 20 dB (A)

mance. **MSRP:** \$799

peyerdynamic TGV96c



Max SPL: 150 dB

Sensitivity: 4 mV/Pa

to 11 volts without affecting perfor-

beyerdynamic.com

Blue enCORE 300



Weight: 11.6 ounces

Notes: Operates on phantom down



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 146 dB

Self Noise: n/a Weight: 13.4 ounces

Sensitivity: 11 mV/Pa

Notes: Backlit logo indicates phantom power presence..

MSRP: \$199

bluemic.com

CAD Audio C195



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 132 dB Sensitivity: 18 mV/Pa Self Noise: 22 dB (A)

Notes: Transformerless design. **MSRP:** \$99



Weight: n/a

cadmics.com

Peavey CM1



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 136 dB

Sensitivity: 7.1 mV/Pa Self Noise: 24 dB (A)

Weight: 11.2 ounces **Notes:** Non-reflective black matte

peavey.com

MSRP: \$199

RØDE S1



Pattern: supercardioid

Max SPL: 151 dB SPL

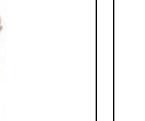
Sensitivity: 5.00 mV/Pa

Self Noise: 18 dB (A) Weight: 10.9 ounces

Notes: Available in black or nickel

MSRP: \$599

Samson CL5



Pattern: cardioid

Max SPL: 148 dB

Sensitivity: 14.1 mV/Pa Self Noise: 19 dB (A)

Weight: 8.8 ounces **Notes:** Available in black or nickel

MSRP: \$359

ennheiser e965



Pattern: cardioid/supercardioid

(switchable)

Max SPL: 152/142 dB (pad in/out)

Sensitivity: 7 mV/Pa

Self Noise: 21 dB (A)

Weight: 13.9 ounces **Notes:** Switchable low-cut filter and 10

dB pad. MSRP: \$1,050

DPA d:facto II



Pattern: supercardioid

Max SPL: 160 dB Sensitivity: 5 mV/Pa Self Noise: 19 dB (A)

Weight: 10.9 ounces **Notes:** Mic capsule removes to be used with various wireless transmitters

MSRP: \$949

dpamicrophones.com

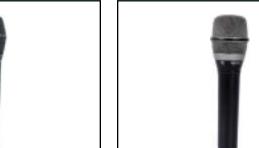
Earthworks SR40V



Pattern: hypercardioid Max SPL: 145 dB

Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa Self Noise: 22 dB (A)

MSRP: \$1,439



Weight: 12.8 ounces **Notes:** Electronics are handcrafted to match each capsule.

earthworksaudio.com

Electro-Voice RE510



Pattern: supercardioid Max SPL: 146 dB Sensitivity: 3.2 mV/Pa

Notes: LF roll-off switch. **MSRP:** \$322

Self Noise: 22 dB (A)

Weight: 9.2 ounces

electrovoice.com

ewitt MTP 940



Pattern: Switchable supercardioid/ cardioid/wide-cardioid

Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa Self Noise: 9 dB (A)

MSRP: \$799



Max SPL: 156 dB

Weight: 11.7 ounces **Notes:** Three-way LF rolloff; -6/-12 dB

pad; three pattern choices.

lewitt-audio.com

Shure KSM9



Max SPL: 152 dB Sensitivity: 2.81 mV/Pa Self Noise: 22 dB (A) Weight: 10.6 ounces Notes: Class-A preamp circuitry; avail-

able in grey or champagne finish.

Pattern: cardioid/supercardioid

shure.com

MSRP: \$874

(switchable)

rodemic.com



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 140 dB Sensitivity: 8 mV/Pa Self Noise: 14 dB (A) Weight: n/a **Notes:** Switchable low-cut filter and 10 dB pad.

sontronics.com

MSRP: \$249

samsontech.com



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 136 dB Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa Self Noise: 16 dB (A)

Notes: 100 Hz low-cut filter.

superlux.us

MSRP: \$198

Superlux PRO-238MKII



Weight: 13.8 ounces

Violet Design Grand Pearl

sennheiserusa.com



Pattern: cardioid Max SPL: 136 dB Sensitivity: 20 mV/Pa Self Noise: 8 dB (A) Weight: 12.3 ounces **Notes:** Class-A discrete electronics. MSRP: \$999

violet-design.com

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