


By GeorgePetersen

Earpieces for IEM Systems

In-ear listening/monitoring systems have made a major impact in the way concerts are presented. A rock-solid wireless transmitter combined with beltpack IEM receivers and accurate earpieces can significantly improve nearly any show or presentation. Not only can performers hear themselves far better than stage wedge mixes, 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.

With that in mind, we decided to look at some current offerings in universal-fit (off-the shelf) and custom (requiring individually-fitted earmolds) earpieces for pro monitoring applications. Although we focused on top-of-the line models, most companies also offer less expensive options and URLs are provided should you require more information.

AKG IP2



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single driver
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 121 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Dark gray-silver
Price: \$79
Notes: Sliding cable tie for tension adjustment.

akg.com

EarSonics EM32



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Three drivers
Impedance: 34 Ohms
Sensitivity: 116 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Multiple color options
Price: Euro 943
Notes: 3-way passive crossover

earsonics.com

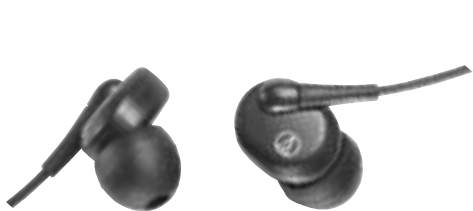
1964 EARS V8



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Eight balanced drivers
Impedance: 18 Ohms
Sensitivity: 117 dB/1mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Multiple color options.
Price: from \$899
Notes: Triple bore design with 3-way crossover.

1964ears.com


Audio-Technica EP3



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single neodymium driver
Impedance: 32 Ohms
Sensitivity: 100 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Black
Price: \$119
Notes: Locking mini-plug connector.

audio-technica.com

Etymotic Research ER-4 MicroPro



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

etymotic.com

ACS T1 Live!



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Three drivers
Impedance: 38 Ohms
Sensitivity: 112 dB @ 0.1v
Isolation: 27 dB
Color: Black
Price: \$1,199
Notes: Built-in mics feed variable ambient sound processor.

accustom.com


Aurisonics ASG-2



Fit: Custom
Transducer: 15mm driver with dual tweeters
Impedance: 34 Ohms
Sensitivity: 123 dB/1mW
Isolation: varies due to individual fit
Color: Frosted clear; plating colors optional.
Price: \$799
Notes: Ambient sound pass-thru option, replaceable cables, optional bass port.

aurisonics.com


Future Sonics mg6pro



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Single 13mm driver
Impedance: 32 Ohm
Sensitivity: 114 dB/1mW
Isolation: 20 dB
Color: Numerous color options
Price: \$900
Notes: Replaceable cable.

futuresonics.com

Galaxy Audio EB-10



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


Sennheiser IE 60



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single neodymium driver
Impedance: 16 Ohm
Sensitivity: n/a
Isolation: 20 dB
Color: Black
Price: \$249
Notes: Wearable conventionally or looped around the ear.

sennheiserusa.com

Ultimate Ears UE Reference Monitor



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Five balanced armatures
Impedance: 31 Ohms
Sensitivity: 107 dB/1mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Four wood veneer facing options.
Price: \$1,999
Notes: Custom tuned to individual listening preferences.

pro.ultimateears.com

Hear Technologies Hearbud Headset Monitors



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single driver
Impedance: 32 Ohm
Sensitivity: n/a
Isolation: n/a
Color: Blue-black
Price: \$35
Notes: Combines standard-sized earbud with soft, molded Hearbud extensions that fit into ear canal.

heartechnologies.com

Sensaphonics 3D AARO



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Full range single- or dual-driver
Impedance: n/a
Sensitivity: n/a
Isolation: 37 dB
Color: Clear or optional crystal colors
Price: from \$2,000
Notes: Active Ambient system with outboard module for tweaking mix from built-in binaural condenser mics.

sensaphonics.com

Unique Melody Miracle



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Six balanced armatures
Impedance: 15.9 Ohms
Sensitivity: 114 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Multiple color options
Price: from \$1,049
Notes: 3-way design with two Lf/MF/ HF drivers.

uniquemelody.co

Jerry Harvey Audio Roxanne



Fit: Custom or Universal
Transducer: Proprietary mini-quad drivers
Impedance: 15 Ohms
Sensitivity: 119 dB @1 mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Numerous color options
Price: from \$1,599
Notes: Variable (±15 dB) bass control.

jhaudio.com

Shure SE535



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Triple balanced-armature drivers
Impedance: 36 Ohm
Sensitivity: 119 dB/1mW
Isolation: 37 dB
Color: Clear or metallic bronze
Price: \$499
Notes: Detachable cable; earmold option available through Sensaphonics.

shure.com


Westone ES60



Fit: Custom
Transducer: Six balanced armature drivers
Impedance: 46 Ohm
Sensitivity: 118 dB/1mW
Isolation: 25 dB
Color: Multiple color options.
Price: \$1,499
Notes: Three-way crossover; replaceable cable.

westone.com

Point Source Audio EM-3



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single driver
Impedance: 32 Ohm
Sensitivity: 120 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Silver
Price: \$89
Notes: Unique “ear guide” routes cable over the ear for increased comfort/ stability.

point-sourceaudio.com

Sony MDR-7550



Fit: Universal
Transducer: Single 16mm neodymium driver
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 108 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Black
Price: \$299
Notes: Flexible ear hangers

pro.sony.com/bbsc

Coming Next Month



Column Line Arrays