Kick Drum Microphones

By GeorgePetersen

With bass drum as the foundation of most live mixes, capturing the LF boom and the transient snap of the beater is essential. Meanwhile, "flabby" frequencies in the 250-600 Hz range can detract from the desired sound. We found a huge selection of specialized mics for the job — plug-and-go models requiring little or no EQ to provide a solid kick sound. So get kicking!

beyerdynamic TG D70
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Hypercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 14k Hz
Weight: 12 ounces
Notes: Integrated swivel mount
Street: $249
north-america.beyerdynamic.com

Heil PR-48
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 30 Hz to 8.5k Hz
Weight: 20 ounces
Notes: 45-degree XLR jack
Street: $249
heilsound.com

sE Electronics V Kick
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 19k Hz
Weight: 16 ounces
Notes: "Classic/Modern" tone switches
Street: $209
seelectronics.com

AKG D12 VR
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Response: 17 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: 1.1 pounds
Notes: 3 Selectable tone shaping filters
Street: $525
akg.com

CAD Audio D88
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: Not stated
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: $99
cadaudio.com

Lewitt DTP-640 REX
Type: Dynamic/Condenser (dual-element)
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 27 ounces
Notes: Pad and filter switches; twin capsule design
Street: $329
lewitt-audio.com

Sennheiser e902
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 40 Hz to 16k Hz
Weight: 15.5 ounces
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: $199
sennheiser.com

Audio-Technica AE2500
Type: Dynamic/Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: 13.8 ounces
Notes: Has dynamic and condenser capsules with separate outputs
Street: $549
audio-technica.com

Earthworks SR20LS
Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 5.8 ounces
Notes: Stainless steel case
Street: $479
earthworksaudio.com

Miktek PM11
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 50 Hz to 10k Hz
Weight: 10.4 ounces
Notes: Neodymium magnet; custom AMI transformer.
Street: $249
miktekaudio.com

Shure Beta 52A
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 10k Hz
Weight: 21 ounces
Notes: Neodymium magnet; integral swivel mount.
Street: $189
shure.com

Audix D6
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 30 Hz to 15k Hz
Weight: 7.7 ounces
Notes: VLM diaphragm for improved transient response
Street: $199
audixusa.com

Ehrlund EHR-D
Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 7 Hz to 87k Hz
Weight: 6 ounces
Notes: Triangular diaphragm
Street: $999
ehrlund.se

Milab BDM-01
Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 7.4 ounces
Notes: Transformerless design
Street: $979
milabmic.com

Sontronics DM1B
Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 28 ounces
Notes: Switchable -15 dB pad
Street: $479
sontronics.com

Avantone Pro MONDO
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 15k Hz
Weight: 16 ounces
Notes: Includes shock mount
Street: $129
avantonepro.com

E-V ND68
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 11k Hz
Weight: 13.2 ounces
Notes: Neodymium magnet structure
Street: $149
electrovoice.com

Morton Microphones KickTone
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 10k Hz
Weight: 1.7 pounds
Notes: Pickup combines 4" cone with coaxial dynamic element
Street: $249, with mounting bracket
mortonmicrophones.com

Telefunken M-82
Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 25 Hz to 18k Hz
Weight: 22.4 ounces
Notes: Onboard Kick EQ and High Boost switches
Street: $399
telefunken-elektroakustik.com