BUYERSGUIDE

Top-of-the-Line Handheld Condenser Microphones

By GeorgePetersen

ynamic microphones have long been the standard in vocal performance mics. However, if you're looking for a handheld with extended bandwidth, greater detail and fast transient response, a condenser mic is just the ticket. With that in mind, we present this look at some current top-end condenser models. No frequency response data is given; a "flat" response is rarely desirable and many models include LF or presence boosts to add character or intelligibility.

AKG C636



Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 150 dB
Sensitivity: 5.6 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 20 dB (A)
Weight: 11 oz.
Notes: Switchable 80 Hz LF roll-off
Street Price: \$325

Audio-Technica AE5400

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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
Street Price: \$379

audio-technica.com



Max SPL: 140 dB
Sensitivity: 5 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 26 dB (A)
Weight: 8 ounces
Notes: -10 dB pad and bass roll-off
switches
Street Price: \$249

audixusa.com

Austrian Audio OC 707

Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 150 dB
Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 19 dB (A)
Weight: 12.35 oz.
Notes: Switchable 120 Hz low-cut filter
Street Price: \$479
austrianaudio.com

beyerdynamic TG V96

Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 150 dB
Sensitivity: 4 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 20 dB (A)
Weight: 11.5 oz.
Notes: Capsule-only version also
offered
Street Price: \$569
North-america.beyerdynamic.com

Blue enCORE 300



CAD Microphones C92



Weight: 10 oz. Notes: TrueFlex Equitek diaphragm Street Price: \$99

cadaudio.com



dpamicrophones.com

Earthworks SR40V

Pattern: Hypercardioid

Self-Noise: 22 dB (A) Weight: 12.8 oz.

Street Price: \$749

Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa

Notes: Extended 30 Hz to 40k Hz

earthworksaudio.com

Max SPL: 145 dB

response





milabmic.com
Street Price: \$1,031
Notes: 12 dB pad and 80 Hz low-cut
Weight: 10.4 oz.
Self-Noise: 25 dB (A)
Sensitivity: 13 mV/Pa
Max SPL: 150/138 dB (pad in/out)
Pattern: Cardiold



Max SPL: 127 dB Sensitivity: 8 mV/Pa Self-Noise: 9 dB (A) Weight: 9.6 oz. Notes: Unique triangular capsule Street Price: \$799 ehrlund.se

Electro-Voice RE520



Pattern: Supercardioid
Max SPL: 150 dB
Sensitivity: 5.6 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 17 dB (A)
Weight: 11.7 oz.
Notes: Cardioid RE510 version also
avail.
Street Price: \$299
electrovoice.com

Lewitt MTP 940 CM



lewitt-audio.com

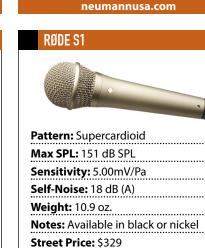
Miktek PM5 Sensitivity: 18 mV/Pa Self-Noise: 19 dB (A) Notes: Handheld version of C5 studio

miktekaudio.com

Sontronics STC-6

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Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 140 dB
Sensitivity: 8 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 14 dB (A)
Weight: 15.4 oz.
Notes: Switchable low-cut filter and 10
dB pad
Street Price: \$175
sontronics.com





Neumann KMS 105

Pattern: Supercardioid

Self-Noise: 18 dB (A)

Sensitivity: 4.5 mV/Pa

Notes: KMS104 similar cardioid version

Max SPL: 150 dB

Weight: 10.6 oz.

Street Price: \$699

Sennheiser e 96



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switchable
Max SPL: 152/142 dB (pad in/out)
Sensitivity: 7 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 21 dB (A)
Weight: 13.9 oz.
Notes: Switchable low filter and 10 dB pad
Street Price: \$399

sennheiserusa.com

Shure KSM9
Pattern: Cardioid/supercardioid
(switchable)
Max SPL: 152 dB
Sensitivity: 2.81 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 22 dB (A)
Weight: 10.6 oz.
Notes: Class-A circuitry; available in
grey or champagne
Street Price: \$699

shure.com