


Kick Drum Microphones

By George Petersen

Back in the day, options for miking bass drums were few and far between. Among these were AKG's D12 or the venerable Sennheiser MD-421. However, over time, as the kick drum was transformed into the foundation of live mixing, a market opened for specialized mics for kick applications, with new high-SPL, plug-and-go models that required little or no EQ to provide a solid kick sound. Today, there are dozens of such models available — and even more, if you consider all the boundary-style mics suitable for the task. We looked into some current market offerings and found a huge selection to fit anyone's taste or budget. And in terms of cost, all include a street price here, so get kicking!

AKG D112 Mk II



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: 10.6 ounces
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: \$199

akg.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, each with separate output.
Street: \$549

audio-technica.com


Earthworks SR25



Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 50 Hz to 25k Hz
Weight: 5.6 ounces
Notes: Use with optional KP-1 KickPad EQ/pad for improved kick sound.
Street: \$619

earthworksaudio.com

E-V ND68



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 11k Hz
Weight: 13.2 ounces
Notes: Neodymium magnet structure
Street: \$199

electrovoice.com

Heil PR-48



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 30 Hz to 8.5k Hz
Weight: 20 ounces
Notes: 45-degree XLR jack for easy connection
Street: \$244

heilsound.com


Lewitt DTP-640 REX



Type: Dynamic/Condenser (dual-element)
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 27 ounces
Notes: Onboard pad and filter switches; twin capsule design.
Street: \$329

lewitt-audio.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

audix-usa.com


Avantone MONDO



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 15k Hz
Weight: 16 ounces
Notes: Includes shock mount
Street: \$125

avantonepro.com

Beyer M99



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Hypercardioid
Frequency Response: 30 Hz to 18k Hz
Weight: 18.5 ounces
Notes: Three onboard filter switches; includes shock mount.
Street: \$499

north-america.beyerdynamic.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


Milab BDM-01



Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 7.4 ounces
Notes: Transformerless design
Street: \$700

milabmic.com


Morton Microphones KickTone



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 10k Hz
Weight: 1.7 pounds
Notes: Pickup combines 4" hemp cone with coaxial dynamic element
Street: \$379, with stand or stand-less mount

mortonmicrophones.com

MXL A-55 Kicker



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 30 Hz to 15k Hz
Weight: 19 ounces
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: \$99

mxlmics.com

CAD Audio D88



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 17k Hz
Weight: n/a
Notes: Integral swivel mount
Street: \$199

cadaudio.com

DPA d:vote 4099D



Type: Condenser
Pattern: Supercardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 1.4 ounces
Notes: Requires d:vote VC4099 mounting clip (\$61)
Street: \$619, less clip

dpamicrophones.com


Drum Workshop Moon Mic



Type: Dynamic
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 15k Hz
Weight: 56 ounces (without stand)
Notes: Phase and HP filter switches; 8-inch diaphragm.
Street: \$399, including stand

dwdrums.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


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


Sontronics DM1B



Type: Condenser
Pattern: Cardioid
Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20k Hz
Weight: 28 ounces
Notes: Switchable -15 dB pad
Street: \$399

sontronics.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

t-funk.com