

Handheld Condenser Microphones

By George Petersen

There's no denying that dynamic microphones have 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 can be the perfect choice. Please note that the models listed here require phantom powering. No frequency response data is given; a "flat" response is rarely desirable and many models include LF or upper mid presence boosts to add character or intelligibility. And street pricing is provided for your convenience.

Blue Microphones



enCORE 300 Premium Vocal Condenser Performance Microphone

enCORE 300 is our flagship condenser performance microphone and brings Blue craftsmanship and innovation to the stage. It features a proprietary, hand-tuned condenser capsule so you can achieve open, detailed sound for every performance. enCORE 300 is the vocalist's secret weapon for cutting through the mix. The custom-designed phantom power circuitry and cardioid polar pattern ensure remarkably consistent frequency response, minimal noise, and powerful sound for the ultimate in commanding vocals. And with high output gain (11 mV/Pa), enCORE 300 ensures impressive headroom so your vocals stay where they belong — front and center. And with its rugged construction, enCORE 300 may be the only thing that survives the tour.



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Electro-Voice RE510



Street Price: \$249
Pattern: Supercardioid
Max SPL: 146 dB
Sensitivity: 3.2 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 22 dB (A)
Weight: 9.2 ounces
Notes: LF roll-off switch

electrovoice.com

Lewitt MTP 940 CM



Street Price: \$599
Pattern: Switchable supercardioid/cardioid/wide-cardioid
Max SPL: 156 dB
Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 9 dB (A)
Weight: 11.7 ounces
Notes: 3-way LF rolloff; 6/12 dB pad; three pattern choices

lewitt-audio.com

Miktek PM5



Street Price: \$599
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 mic

miktekaudio.com

AKG C636



Street Price: \$499
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 150 dB
Sensitivity: 5.6 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 20 dB (A)
Weight: 11 ounces
Notes: Available in black or nickel finishes

akg.com

Apex 515



Street Price: \$99
Pattern: Cardioid/omni/supercardioid
Max SPL: 134 dB
Sensitivity: 13.8 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 17 dB (A)
Weight: 9 ounces
Notes: Includes three interchangeable capsules.

apexelectronics.com

Audio-Technica AE5400



Street Price: \$379
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 157/147 dB (pad in/out)
Sensitivity: 10.0 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 14 dB (A)
Weight: 11.6 ounces
Notes: Same capsule as AT4050 studio mic; 10 dB pad; LF roll-off

audio-technica.com

Milab LSR-3000



Street Price: \$899
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

milabmic.com

Neumann KMS 105



Street Price: \$699
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

neumannusa.com

Peavey CM1



Street Price: \$129
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 finish

peavey.com

Audix VX10



Street Price: \$479
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 138 (with pad in)
Sensitivity: 24 mV / Pa
Self-Noise: 19 dB (A)
Weight: 11 ounces
Notes: 10 dB pad

audixusa.com

beyerdynamic TG V96c



Street Price: \$570
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 150 dB
Sensitivity: 4 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 20 dB (A)
Weight: 11.6 ounces
Notes: Operates on phantom down to 11 volts

beyerdynamic.com

Blue enCORE 300



Street Price: \$199
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 146 dB
Sensitivity: 11 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: n/a
Weight: 13.4 ounces
Notes: Backlit logo indicates phantom power

bluemic.com

RØDE S1



Street Price: \$329
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 finish

rodemic.com

Sennheiser e965



Street Price: \$699
Pattern: Switchable cardioid/supercardioid
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

sennheiserusa.com

Shure KSM9



Street Price: \$699
Pattern: Switchable cardioid/supercardioid
Max SPL: 152 dB
Sensitivity: 2.81 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 22 dB (A)
Weight: 10.6 ounces
Notes: KSM9HS (switchable hypercardioid/subcardioid) also offered

shure.com

CAD Audio C195



Street Price: \$99
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 132 dB
Sensitivity: 18 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 22 dB (A)
Weight: 10 ounces
Notes: Transformerless design

cadmics.com

DPA d:facto II



Street Price: \$979
Pattern: Supercardioid
Max SPL: 160 dB
Sensitivity: 5 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 19 dB (A)
Weight: 10.9 ounces
Notes: Capsule removes for use with various wireless transmitters

dpamicrophones.com

Earthworks SR40V



Street Price: \$999
Pattern: Hypercardioid
Max SPL: 145 dB
Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 22 dB (A)
Weight: 12.8 ounces
Notes: Bandwidth extends to 40 kHz

earthworksaudio.com

Sontronics STC-6



Street Price: \$219
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

Superlux PRO-238 MkII



Street Price: \$139
Pattern: Cardioid
Max SPL: 136 dB
Sensitivity: 10 mV/Pa
Self-Noise: 16 dB (A)
Weight: 13.8 ounces
Notes: 100 Hz low-cut filter

superlux.us

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