

Custom Earpieces for IEM Systems

By George Petersen

One of the major advancements in live sound has been in-ear listening/monitoring systems, which have made a significant impact in the way concerts are presented. A rock-solid wireless transmitter combined with belt-pack 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 top-end custom earpieces for pro monitoring applications. Although we focused mainly on top-of-the-line models, which all require impressions of each user's ears, most companies also offer less expensive options (including many in universal, non-custom versions) and URLs are provided should you require more information.

1964 EARS A12

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Twelve balanced drivers
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 116 dB/1mW
Isolation: 20 dB with Apex M20 module
Color: Multiple color options.
Price: from \$1,999
Notes: Quad bore design with 4 LF, 4 MF and 4 HF drivers.



1964ears.com

InEar LivePro 4


Fit: Custom
Transducer: Four drivers
Impedance: 22 Ohms
Sensitivity: 120 dB @ 0.1v
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Black; colors optional
Price: \$1,172
Notes: Optional ambience port with a protective hearing filter



inear-monitoring.eu

Jerry Harvey Audio Lola


Fit: Custom or Universal
Transducer: Eight drivers
Impedance: 16 Ohms
Sensitivity: 105 dB @ 1 mW
Isolation: 25 dB
Color: Numerous color options
Price: from \$1,745
Notes: Variable (±15 dB) bass control



jhaudio.com

ACS Encore Live!

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Five drivers
Impedance: 83 Ohms
Sensitivity: 120.6 dB @ 0.1v
Isolation: 27 dB
Color: Clear or smoke gray
Price: \$1,199
Notes: Built-in microphones allow stage ambience adjustment



acscustom.com

Alclair Audio Studio 4

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Four drivers
Impedance: 36 Ohms
Sensitivity: 110 dB @ 100 mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Several available
Price: \$949
Notes: Three bore design



alclair.com

Perfect Seal PS6

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Six drivers
Impedance: 22 Ohms
Sensitivity: 116 dB
Isolation: n/a
Color: Various options
Price: \$700
Notes: Three independent sound bores



perfect-seal.com

Sensaphonics 3D AARO

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Full range single- or dual-driver
Impedance: n/a
Sensitivity: n/a
Isolation: 45.5 dB
Color: Clear or optional crystal colors
Price: from \$1,700
Notes: Active Ambient system with outboard module for tweaking mix from built-in binaural condenser mics.



sensaphonics.com

Alien Ears G16

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Eight drivers
Impedance: 18 Ohms
Sensitivity: 124 dB/mW
Isolation: 26 - 30 dB
Color: Numerous
Price: \$800
Notes: DIY impression kit available



alieneears.com

CTM (Clear Tune Monitors) CT-6 Elite

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Six drivers
Impedance: 23 Ohms
Sensitivity: 115 dB @ 1 mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Numerous custom options
Price: \$1,000
Notes: Four-way crossover



cleartunemonitors.com

Ultimate Ears UE 18+ PRO


Fit: Custom
Transducer: Six balanced armatures
Impedance: 37.5 Ohms
Sensitivity: 100 dB/100mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Multiple color options.
Price: \$1,500
Notes: Stage ambience option offered; digital impressions available



pro.ultimateears.com

Unique Melody Maestro


Fit: Custom
Transducer: Twelve balanced armatures
Impedance: 20 Ohms
Sensitivity: 109 dB
Isolation: n/a
Color: Multiple color options
Price: from \$1,449
Notes: 4-way design with two LF/MF/HF drivers.



uniquemelody.co

Earsonics EM6

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Six drivers
Impedance: 41 Ohm
Sensitivity: 124 dB/1mW
Isolation: n/a
Color: Clear
Price: \$ 1,100
Notes: Universal S-EM6 also offered



earsonics.com

Future Sonics mg6 HX

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Single 13mm driver
Impedance: 32 Ohm
Sensitivity: 114 dB/1mW
Isolation: 26 dB
Color: Numerous color options
Price: \$998
Notes: HX Helix Fixed Voice Coil Vent for +/-26 dB Ambient Noise Rejection



futuresonics.com

Westone ES80

Fit: Custom
Transducer: Eight balanced armatures
Impedance: 80 Ohm
Sensitivity: 111 dB/1mW
Isolation: 25 dB
Color: Multiple color options.
Price: From \$1,899
Notes: Selectable 10/16/24 dB attenuation filters



westone.com

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