

Physical Design

Handheld

Lavalier

Surface Mount

Shotgun



Comment:

Most common type

Held by user, or mounted

Internal shock mount to reduce handling noise

Essential tool in your toolkit

Tips:

Position 6"-12" from speaker's mouth

Beware of proximity effect

Point at 45° angle

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Comment:

Often called a “lav” mic

Any small mic that can be attached to a user’s clothing

Allows for hands-free movement

Small, easy to hide

Tips:

Placement 6”-8” below the chin is critical

Single-purpose – not recommended for use away from the body or handheld

Generally require EQ to achieve a natural sound

Double-miking is common, with only one lav used at a time (the other for back-up)

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Comment:

Designed to work on a flat surface

Physically unobtrusive

Highly sensitive; picking up sound waves from the surface as well as from the direct source

Tips:

Beware of table vibrations

(Solution: Place the mic on a mouse pad)

Sound quality also dictated by surface size – at least 3' x 3' is minimum. (May reduce low frequency sounds. But: That may increase intelligibility by reducing boominess.)

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Comment:

Long interference tube (resembling a shotgun) rejects sounds coming from more than 30° off to the sides

Highly directional

Tips:

Can be positioned off-camera, slightly above, below or to the side of sound source

Aim away from hard surfaces that may reflect background noise and produce a hollow sound

Sensitive to wind – use windscreens, especially outdoors

Rubber-isolated shock mounts will control handling noise