

Description

Application

Placement

Getting the Best Sound

Description

They are generally condenser microphones designed to be mounted via a clip or pin to clothing. They can be as small as a few millimeters in diameter and weigh just an ounce or so. They come in different colors and offer an array of mounting clips or pins.



The Shure
WL50
Lavalier mic

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Lavaliers allow to you close-mic the actor, increasing gain before feedback (or the amount of amplification you can achieve before experiencing feedback). They also minimize pickup of room noise, stage vibrations and other unwanted sounds. They're easily hidden and, when used in wireless systems, offer your actors and performers the same mobility your pastor has leading worship services.

Most often, omnidirectionals are preferred, since the mic is very close to the sound source (eliminating the concern about feedback). This pickup pattern provides an even frequency response even when the sound source is off axis, as an actor might in moving about the stage. And omnis don't exhibit proximity effect, so there's no need to cut low frequency response at the mix.



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- Place the mic at the top of the chest or above the ear or along the hairline. Placing the mic too high on the chest or throat may cause loss of high frequencies blocked by the chin.
- If placing a lavalier on or near the hairline, consult with the wig master to determine the best method to hold it in place. You can use clips, comb clips, bobby pins or elastic headband. They can be sewn into wigs or barrettes and can even be taped to the temple area of an actor wearing glasses. Clear tape does the job.
- If placement above the ear is best, make an ear clip using a pipe cleaner, florists wire or even a paper clip.
- Never use duct or gaffer's tape. The adhesive can irritate the skin. Use surgical tape, spirit gum, medical adhesive or clear bandage tape.

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- Cabled mics present contact noise challenges. To avoid these, try taping the cable to the fabric or sew a channel or tube of fabric inside the costume to prevent excess rubbing. Tying a knot in the mic cable near the mic will also help block noise to the capsule.
- Don't forget the proximity effect of unidirectional mics. If you're placing a mic in the chest area, its resonance may produce a boomy sound that you'll need to EQ to fix.
- Don't be afraid to use EQ. A high frequency boost can brighten a mic that is covered by clothing or positioned in the hairline just as low frequency reduction can help to reduce cable noise, breath pops and wind noise.