

Selecting a microphone for your voice can be very personal so consider these questions before making your selection:

- ▶ Do you want as natural sound as possible?
- ▶ Do you want to hear less of the harsh 'S' and 'T' sibilant sounds?
- ▶ Do you want a warmer, bigger sound or a clean, crisp sound to cut through a full mix?
- ▶ Do you have too much nasal sound or harsh mid range?
- ▶ Is your voice very quiet and do you have problems with gain before feedback, or you find your current microphone is prone to picking up other instruments?
- ▶ Do you want a very rugged microphone?
- ▶ Do you need to select microphones for multiple voices that will sit together in a mix?

Microphones for natural sound

For the most natural sound we recommend a condenser microphone. The design of condenser capsule offers a full audio range and is very sensitive to complex sounds. Ideal choices include the AE5400, AE3300 and the ATM710.

Microphones to hear less harsh sibilants

Harsh sibilants are different for males and females.

The male voice is usually around 6-7KHz, so the most suitable microphones have a small dip in that area which dampens harsh S's and T's. The most suitable microphones are the AE5400, AE6100, ATM710 and the ATM610. For a female voice they are generally higher at around 7-8KHz, the most suitable microphones to dampen these sibilants are the AE3300, AE4100, ATM710 and the ATM410.

Microphones for warm or crisp voices

If your voice is warm and you want it bigger, or your voice is too crisp and you want to balance this with some warmth, select the AE5400 or the ATM610.

If your voice is warm and you want to balance it with some crispness or you want it to really cut through a full mix select the AE3300, AE6100, ATM710 or the ATM410.

Microphones to reduce nasal sounds or a harsh mid range

To reduce a strong nasal sound or a harsh mid range in a voice you will usually require some EQ'ing on a mixing desk. To compensate for having to do this with your microphone selection, go for one with a high frequency response so it will still cut through after any destructive EQ'ing. Choose the AE5400, AE4100 or the ATM710.

Microphones for quiet voices or gain before feedback problems

For a quiet voice with "gain before feedback" problems, select a microphone with a dynamic capsule as this will only pick-up sound within 6 inches. In addition, the tighter hypercardioid pick-up pattern is better to reject more sound from the side like the AE6100 and the ATM610.

Rugged microphones or microphones for energetic performers

If you're an overtly energetic performer and need a very rugged microphone, select a dynamic microphone, as the capsules are less prone to damage - the AE6100, AE4100, ATM610 or the ATM410 would be suitable.

Microphones for multiple vocals

When selecting microphones for multiple vocals decide what you are trying to accomplish. You may want to use all the same microphones so you can mix on a level playing field or you may want the microphone selection to help with balancing the different tones of the voices, aiding the mixing process.

If you are mixing a main and a backing vocal and want the main to be more prominent, choose a main microphone with a fuller frequency range or a crisper sound, as this will help it sit on top of the backing vocals and the backing music. Try a condenser for the main and a dynamic for the backing. Some good combinations are:

Main vocal	Backing vocal
▶ AE5400	AE4100, ATM410, ATM610
▶ AE3300	AE4100, ATM410
▶ AE6100	ATM610, ATM410
▶ AE4100	ATM610, ATM410
▶ ATM710	ATM610, ATM410
▶ ATM610	ATM410

If you are mixing two voices, both of which want to be of equal prominence, think how they should mix. Mixing a male voice and a female voice is a great example, i.e.:

- ▶ A male voice is usually warmer, whilst a female is usually crisper, so you could extend this by using a warm mic for the male and a crisp mic for the female. The result will be more separation in the voices and more distinctive voices.
- ▶ Alternatively, you could do the opposite and put a crisp microphone onto the male vocal and a warm microphone on the female vocal, the result will be fuller sounding vocals which will blend together with less separation.