

MICROPHONES

Microphones are classified by their pick-up patterns:

Sennheizer ME-20 (Omnidirectional) - picks up from all directions (including camera noise!). Good for ambient sound. Insensitive to wind.

Sennheizer ME-40 (Cardiod) - heart-shaped pick-up pattern; picks up sound from the front.

Sennheizer ME-80 (Directional/Ultra Directional) "Shotgun" - extreme directional pick-up pattern and very sensitive. Extremely useful for dialogue pick-up, long and medium distances, hence the nickname "shotgun." A shotgun microphone must be pointed directly at the sound source. Note: the pick-up pattern varies according to the frequency: narrow for high frequencies (i.e., treble sounds), wider for low frequencies (i.e., bass sounds). To avoid pick-up of sounds coming from the rear or the sides, place the shotgun microphone with its back end pointed at the source of the unwanted sound (e.g., the camera). Place it as close as possible to the sound source. Do not use a shotgun microphone in tightly enclosed places (e.g., a bathroom) as the sounds bounce.

The Sennheizer microphone heads outlined above (ME-20, ME-40, ME-80) each require a Sennheizer power module (K3U). The power module requires an alkaline PX23 battery (not supplied). Observe proper polarity. Remember to turn power switch off when not in use. When the power module is turned on, a small red light below the switch glows for an instant to verify that the power is being applied. Once the battery is inserted, the module is screwed on to the microphone head of your choice. The K3U power module has a male cannon-type XLR connector, requiring a female cannon-type XLR cable.

Sony ECM-50 and TRAM. Both are Lavalliere-type microphones. They are used mostly for interviews or when only one person does most of the talking. They may be attached to the person (e.g., on shirt, collar, on a tie, etc.). Because of their small size (especially the TRAM) they may be easily hidden on the set. The TRAM is an excellent choice as a wireless microphone (wireless transmitter and receiver are available). Sound quality is excellent. Place as close as possible to the sound source. Both microphones have a male cannon-type XLR connector, requiring a cannon-type female XLR cable.

The Sony ECM-50 requires a size N battery. The TRAM requires a No. 675 button battery. Neither battery is supplied.