

External Microphones for Mobile Devices

Mini condenser microphone



This is an external microphone called a **mini condenser microphone**. This microphone can be used with a **smartphone, tablet or video camera**. It will improve the audio quality and recording of ambient sound.



The **mini condenser mic** needs a **shock support device** to keep it steady. Most of these have a **shoe mount fastener** that secures the mic housing to the recording device or to some type of **video cage or harness**.

Mini condenser microphone & windscreen

Mic support

Device harness

3.5-mm audio jack cable

3.5-mm audio jack to Lightning connector adapter



The mini condenser mic can be mounted on a **video cage or harness** that holds a **smartphone or tablet**. The mini condenser microphone can also be mounted directly to a **video camera**. Various types of **mini condenser microphones, video cages, and video harnesses** are available online.

Windsock



Mini condenser microphone & windscreen



Video camera



When recording audio outdoors, placing a **windsock or windscreen** over the condenser mic will reduce unwanted wind noise. It will also keep dust and dirt from entering the microphone.

Lavalier microphone



This is a **lavalier mic**. It is designed to improve the audio quality of an on-camera interview.

How to attach and hide the lavalier microphone for an on-camera interview

- If possible, try to hide the **microphone cable** under the clothes. Remove the **windscreen** so it doesn't get lost during this process, then reattach it before you start recording audio.
- Before connecting the microphone to the recording device, **smartphone, tablet or video camera**, ask the speaker to drop the end of the cable that will eventually be attached to the recording device through his or her shirt or blouse.
- Ask the speaker to take the **lavalier microphone** tip out through a shirt button opening or blouse collar, and attach it to either a shirt button lapel or blouse collar. If the speaker is wearing a coat with a tie, hide the wire under the coat and tie, and attach it to one side of the tie. If the speaker is not wearing a tie, attach it to the lapel of the coat. Try to place the mic on the same side of the coat or tie that the subject will be looking towards. (For example, if the speaker will be addressing the camera or interviewer on the left, then place the mic on the speaker's left-side). If the speaker is speaking in various directions, then place the mic in the center of the collar or shirt button lapel. Make sure the mic is placed in close proximity to the speaker's mouth.
- Once the mic, cable and talent are all in place, attach the audio cable to your recording device. If needed, you can add an **audio extension cable**. If the cable runs on the floor, tape it down to secure it so people will not trip on it.
- Before you start recording, conduct a **mic check**, and ask your speaker to talk so you can check for any irritating sounds, such as the mic rubbing against fabric or distracting wind sounds.

It is best to use a **windscreen** to reduce unwanted noise, especially outdoors in the wind.

Windscreen





The lavalier microphone can be used with a video camera, smartphone or tablet.



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