

As you may know, there are a lot of mics out there at so many different price points. So how do you find a good one to fit in your budget? A friend once asked me this same question in an email. His church budget was \$500. Here was my response.

There are 5 keys to finding a good Wireless Mic:

- 1. Frequency Agility – being able to change frequencies. Cheaper mics are usually fixed frequency so when there is interference from another signal source you can't change it and you're stuck with an unusable piece of equipment.*
- 2. Signal Diversity – This improves the signal quality of the receiver. This can be easily seen on receivers units - two antennas means it has Diversity, one antenna does not. Basically, diversity allows for your receiver to catch the transmitted signal twice and use the strongest one. With only one antenna you are more prone to drop outs. With that said, the antenna should be substantial, not a telescoping one.*
- 3. Mic Elements – In my opinion, the best solution is a head worn omni-directional mic (depending on the manufacturer) because you can get the most gain before feedback. Some may feel it is distracting but once you get used to it, most people love it. If you decide to get a head worn mic, I suggest one that fits over both ears not just one ear because you'll have a snug fit. I've seen places that use the one ear mic and it can flop around and be a distraction to both the presenter and the audience. If the head worn mic is not for you then I would suggest an omni directional lav mic. Cardioid lavs have a tendency to pop a lot (referred to as plosives).*
- 4. Brand Name, Reputation, &– this is pretty self-explanatory. I would stick with proven leaders – Audix, AKG, Countryman, DPA, Sennheiser, Shure, & Telex to name a few. In my opinion, I would stay away from CAD, Nady, Pyle, Peavy and other rock band style equipment – I have never had one perform well and they don't seem to last very long. With that said, I am pleasantly surprised with the quality and versatility of Galaxy Audio microphones.*
- 5. Reviews – I always look at the reviews because if people are having problems or great successes they will talk about it. For me, generally it has to be a 4 or 5 star review from multiple sources unless it is a new product from a reputable manufacturer.*

You've heard the saying: "You get what you pay for." The same goes for audio equipment. Spend a little more for quality and it will last you a long time. You may find mics cheaper on EBay, however, be aware that the FCC recently outlawed the 700MHz band and there may be people trying to unload these mics on unsuspecting buyers.

Something else to keep in mind are standard outputs. Good quality receivers have professional XLR microphone outputs. Some will have both XLR and 1/4" TRS outputs which is fine but typically the cheaper ones will only have one TRS output.

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