

Microphone Usage Tips

Speak in normal voice

Err on the loud side if you have to. Whispering is hard to amplify and will result in your audience not hearing you well, if at all.

Find your sweet spot

Keep the microphone as close as possible to get the rich tones of your voice, but keep the wind of your voice away.

Get used to hearing your voice

It can be very nerve-wracking to hear your voice being projected from a speaker. Not only does it sound differently from what you're used to hearing, the time delay catches many speakers off guard. This is where many performers drop their voice so that their internal voice is louder than the amplified voice. This does not help the audience understand you.

Use a monitor

If you find the delay between your projected voice and your amplified voice is adversely affecting your performance, using a monitor can help. It isn't necessary for big rooms and small auditoriums.

Singers get closer!

Gains are usually adjusted lower for singers because the voices are louder. This makes it difficult if you suddenly start speaking.

Rehearse with & test microphones

Often there is no choice but to go live in front of an audience without testing the microphone first. Avoid doing that if at all possible. Remember, a performer is part of the system, and the entire system needs to be tested for success. The best bet is to rehearse at least 24 hours prior to a performance in order to give the AT time to solve and resolve any audio problems.

Use a microphone stand for hand-helds

If you're using a handheld microphone, you may need to set it down and make your hands free for something else. A microphone stand is the best place to rest a microphone.

The Don'ts

Don't tap or blow onto microphones. Your best bet is to assume the microphone is on, and just start talking. Asking, "Am I being heard clearly?" sounds better than "Is this mic on?"

Don't drop microphones. Although quite accidental to drop one, take safeguards not to do so.

Don't plug or unplug microphones. A microphone can be easily and permanently damaged if you do so when the system is powered.

Don't touch microphone heads. It reduces the useful life of the microphone.