

Sound Problems for Professional Speakers

When something doesn't sound right, it may not be your fault. However, there are some steps you can take to correct some problems. This chart is only intended for those working without an audio technician.

Problem	Cause	Solution
Hollow sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mic gain is high - You're outside of the sweetspot - Usually happens with lecturn and lavalier mics 	Move microphone to side (or off-axis), get closer to microphone.
Mic sounds "hot"	<p>This system is on a verge of a feedback condition. The gain is too high.</p> <p>The high-mid's and high frequencies might be boosted too high.</p>	<p>Reduce the higher frequencies on the equalizer (2k to 20k)</p> <p>Back off of the mic!</p> <p>If the gain can't be adjusted downward, turn the system volume down.</p>
You sound "breathy" Or distorted or "buzzy"	The microphone is picking up your breath.	Back off of the microphone, get the wind of your breath away from the microphone
Your voice sounds "muddy"	Bass and lower midrange frequencies are boosted too high.	<p>Reduce the lower frequencies on the equalizer (100-400 Hz)</p> <p>Increase the higher frequencies (2K – 10K)</p>
Your voice fades and comes in loudly intermittently	<p>The microphone is not picking up your voice consistently, causing "hot" and "cold" spots.</p> <p>Most likely you are turning your head and catching the microphone off-axis.</p>	Turn the microphone with your head. Put the microphone further back from your face.
Feedback	<p>Somehow, the microphone can hear the speaker. Either the audio tech went too far with an adjustment or –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You got too close to a loudspeaker. - You hit a frequency that the system was sensitive to. - You got loud enough so the microphone could here the speaker. 	<p>Once a feedback condition is hit, it takes a few seconds to "ring-out".</p> <p>The AT (if available) responds by turning down the system output.</p> <p>You can-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - move away from speaker - change positions - pull the mic further from your face.
Static	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Low battery level for condenser mic (Lavaliers especially) - Wireless connection is loosing signal. - Loose cord - Damaged microphone 	Unless it needs a battery that you can change, the AT needs to deal with this problem.