

Samson Q7 Review

We found the Samson Q7 to be as accurate as the over-priced Senneheiser MD431 II and at about 5 times the price, we won't be able to recommend the Senneheiser desktop mic but the MD431 edged out the Q7 in noise cancellation. An even bigger surprise was that the [Buddy Desktop](#) USB microphone tied with the Samson Q7 in accuracy. At this point we decided to focus on comparing the Q7 to the Buddy Desktop since they're both desktop microphones. If you add a USB soundcard to the Q7, it will cost about the same as the Buddy Desktop which includes an integrated USB soundcard so that begs the question: If both microphones are about the same price and feature the same accuracy, why carry both items. Read on...

Although both the Buddy Desktop and Q7 were dead even in accuracy, the Buddy Desktop has the advantage of being significantly smaller (low-profile), having a mute switch and includes a built-in USB soundcard. By contrast, the Q7 is a performing microphone which makes it a little more difficult to position because of the angle but the Q7 has its own advantages. We found absolutely no drop-off in accuracy when using the Q7 in a moderately quiet environment from 8 inches away but the big surprise was that you could actually maintain relatively high accuracy with the Q7 from as far away as 4 feet (that's no typo). The microphone even worked from as far away as 5 feet but dropped off at that point. By comparison, the Buddy Desktop works best, in a moderately quiet environment, from about 6 inches away and can be quite effective, in a very quiet environment, up to 14 inches but we don't recommend pushing the envelope quite that far. Another Q7 advantage is that it can optionally gooseneck mounted for specialized situations such as a powered wheelchair or bed rail.

In a desktop computer situation with plenty of space we would recommend the Samson Q7 because you can lean back in your chair and still get relatively high accuracy. We find it vastly preferable to any Voice Array microphone which we never recommend. In a small space situation or perhaps a notebook computer workstation situation, we would recommend the Buddy Desktop.

Note #1: *The Q7 works best with 1/2 duplex pods such as those made by [USB Pod](#) and [VXI](#).*

If you are using a [Buddy USB Pod](#) external USB soundcard, you will additionally need to add a [P100](#) to your order to obtain acceptable results. We do not recommend any other full-duplex USB Pods with this microphone.

Note #2: *This microphone is not recommended for soft (quite) voices*