



[Sennheiser VMX Office](#) Review

Although the Sennheiser [VMX Office](#) includes a few unique features, it is basically designed to fill in the **void between** its big brother, the [BW 900](#) and its little sister, the VMX 100 (which we have chosen not to market because of its limitations) while adding the convenience of a low profile microphone.

Pros:

We normally only recommend headset microphones that feature a long goose neck to pick up sound within 1 inch of your mouth but the VMX Office has broken new ground in this area.

- We were able to achieve 97% accuracy with the 1st low profile short neck microphone we have ever been comfortable recommending. We suspect one of key reasons why this microphone works well, from as far away as 4 inches, is the new VoiceMax DSP dual microphone element technology.
- Turning the unit off is as easy as folding the microphone up.
- The VMX Office works well for speech recognition, cell phones and land lines. Our preference was to use the 1.9 GHz base station which offers the greatest stability along with a 35 m range (as opposed to the 10 m range of Bluetooth).
- Built-in PC to landline phone single click switch.
- Optional landline handset hydraulic lifter support. Even the BW 900 isn't well-suited for use with a hydraulic lifter when using speech recognition.
- It's easy to tell if your microphone is set to the computer or the landline by looking at the base unit and you can even tell if your microphone is on from the pulsing blue light under the appropriate icon. For example: If you are connected to your computer but you see a steady blue light, it means that your microphone is muted. Turning on your microphone is as simple as clicking the conveniently located easy to find button on the nose of the microphone or the base station.

- If you have any concerns about looking like a computer geek, this is the microphone for you. It looks like a typical small cell phone Bluetooth microphone (which it is) that works equally well on your telephone and computer for both VoIP and speech recognition.
- Because this unit is only 15 g and combines an articulating speaker, it is relatively easy to put on and comfortable to wear for several hours at a time. However, it isn't quite as comfortable as the headset option on the BW 900 but significantly more comfortable and lighter than the BW 900 without the headset option.
- Can be worn on either ear without reversing the controls.
- Less expensive and more features than the BW 900. Although we prefer to use the 1.9 GHz base station, another advantage of the VMX Office is its ability to Bluetooth connected to most of the newer notebook and tablet computers which can be a major advantage for those needing extreme wireless portability, such as physicians, who will also like the non-intrusive size of this microphone. For older notebook and tablet computers needing Bluetooth portability, the new (extremely low profile) Anycom Bluetooth USB-500 adapter is available.

Cons:

- Unfortunately nearly all Bluetooth microphones share a universal problem with having to be reconnected (software synced) whenever you wander out of range, recharge your unit, turn off/on your unit or turn off/on your computer. However this limitation is only a concern if you use the VMX Office as a Bluetooth microphone.
- Noise cancellation is the VMX Office's Achilles heel. This microphone works best in moderately quiet environments.
- The five-hour battery can also be a show stopper for power users because the battery is non-user removable which means that if you want to take your microphone and cell phone to lunch, you will run out of juice before the end of the day. The BW 900 includes the ability to charge an extra battery in the base station and you can even change out the headset battery in the middle of a phone call; without being disconnected.

- Although 97% accuracy is excellent, the BW 900 is a little more accurate at 98%.

Conclusions:

For tablet and notebook users who require a wireless solution and extreme portability, we recommend the VMX Office over any other Bluetooth microphone. At an SRP of \$280 (minus the hydraulic lifter), the VMX Office won't fit everyone's budget but if you could live with a little less accuracy, no 1.9 GHz base station option and no landline option, the \$90 SRP Andrea Electronics [BT 200](#) would make a decent inexpensive 2nd choice. If money isn't a major factor, the VMX Office would be our 1st choice for a non-hair disturbing very low-profile microphone. It is also our 1st choice for a Bluetooth microphone.

We cannot recommend this microphone for lunch skipping power users (because of the five-hour battery life), noisy environments or for those requiring the absolute best possible accuracy. For those who need the best possible accuracy, landline/cell phone connectivity and more than a five-hour battery life, we recommend the Sennheiser BW 900.

Note: End users, especially physicians, who wish to avoid the computer geek look or bluetooth cell look might want to consider going with a hand-held microphone such as the [Buddy StylusMic](#) tablet microphone, [Philips SpeechMic Pro](#), [Philips SpeechMic Classic](#) or the new [Dictaphone PowerMic II](#) (our favorite hand-held microphone).