



## WIRED HEADSET MICROPHONE FACE-OFF [Audio-Technica Pro8HEmW & Addasound](#)

Last Update: January 2, 2024

### **Introduction:**

Attempting to select the best headset microphone for speech recognition is nothing short of a daunting task because there are so many excellent choices. For obvious reasons, this review does not cover every headset microphone that can be used for speech recognition but we have spent several years compiling this information from the most popular speech recognition forums like the [KnowBrainer Speech Recognition Forums](#) and working directly with numerous microphone manufacturers. The following review consists of 3 parts:

- (1) My personal take on the [evolution of speech recognition microphones](#)
- (2) The [Pros and Cons](#) of what a general consensus of many top speech recognition experts believe to be the *top five wired headset speech recognition microphones*
- (3) My personal [assessment](#) of what the numbers mean

If you wish to skip past the brief microphone history, click [Pros and Cons](#). If you wish to skip further ahead to my conclusions, click [recommendations](#).

*Note that while only one of these microphones could achieve the 1<sup>st</sup> place overall rating, each is still an excellent choice for speech recognition.*

## Evolution of Speech Recognition Microphones

When we first began using DragonDictate speech recognition software in the 1980's it seemed to be incredibly impressive technology. Never minding the very deliberate pause after each and every word, we waited with baited breath to see another (hopefully correct) word miraculously appear on our somewhat blurry little screens. It was fun! It was frustrating! It was not very practical. Back then, the couple of wired headset microphone choices available to us were more than adequate.

In 1996, NaturallySpeaking continuous speech recognition was released. With the emergence of this new technology, we had a viable tool for professional as well as personal use. That being the case, we needed microphones designed to better utilize this increasingly more sophisticated software. Microphone manufacturers responded. They designed wireless systems. They designed combination headset microphones that could additionally be used with cell phones, landlines and even hydraulic lifters which picked up our handsets for us. While noise canceling and accuracy continued to improve, ultimately many of us still were not happy with our headset microphones, finding them to be rather inconvenient and/or uncomfortable. Physicians and other professionals were often forced to don and then remove their headsets every few minutes, between patients or clients. Other end users, needing to take verbal notes while talking on the phone, put their callers on hold, which was both inefficient and impolite. While handheld microphones such as the Philips [SpeechMike Air](#) now allow concurrent use of both a microphone and a telephone, they don't solve all problems for all end users. Some of us simply need to keep both hands free. Fortunately, microphone manufacturers have also been busily designing high quality desktop microphones. See our [Battle of the TableMikes](#) review if you would like additional information on table microphones. See our [Battle of the Handheld Microphones](#) review for additional information on handheld microphones and see our [Battle of the Telephone Headsets](#) review for additional information on speech recognition telephone headsets.

A wired headset microphone just might be your best option if:

- You are concerned about broadcasting private information
- You don't need to be wireless
- You need to keep both hands free
- You want to get the most bang for your buck
- You need an extremely reliable and portable microphone

## Pros & Cons

### Audio-Technica Pro8HEmW Pros:

- Rated #1 in Noise Canceling
- Rated #2 in Accuracy
- One of the lowest failure rates in the industry
- 1 year manufacturer warranty



### Audio-Technica Pro8HEmW Cons:

- No speakers on Pro HEmW
- No mute switch
- No speakers
- Nontraditional wearing style may take getting used to
- Not as comfortable or accurate as a Shokz [OpenComm UC2](#) Bone Conduction Bluetooth headset microphone

### Addasound Crystal SR2831 (single ear)/ SR2831 (high fidelity stereo)

MSRP: \$101 - \$119

Accuracy: 99%

Noise Cancellation: 8 out of 10

Overall Rating: 9 out of 10

### Addasound Pros:

- Highly accurate
- Comfortable (protein your questions on SR2821/22 models)
- Unified Communications (supporting VoIP applications)
- Wideband audio processing for natural sound
- Microphone Mute
- Speaker volume control
- Built-in USB soundcard
- 2 year manufacturer warranty



## Addasound Cons:

- Not quite as noise filtering, accurate or comfortable as the Shokz [OpenComm UC2](#)

## Conclusions

In 2004, the Sennheiser ME3 became the gold standard for speech recognition headset microphones. Although the ME3 is still considered to be a good microphone, it hasn't been improved or redesigned since its inception while other microphone manufacturers have been looking to knock the ME3 off its pedestal. UmeVoice became the 1st company to drop the Sennheiser ME3 down a notch when they introduced the theBoom line of microphones which were less expensive, slightly more accurate and noise canceling. UmeVoice reigned king for several years until VXI revamped their TalkPro line of microphones which didn't beat theBoom line of microphones but did manage to squeak by the Sennheiser ME3 dropping it to 3rd place. Audio-Technica's Pro 8HEmW dropped the previously mentioned microphones down a peg in September of 2013 but the new SpeechWare's FlexyMike DE & SE replaced the Pro 8HEmW as the King of the Hill. The FlexyMike DEC (introduced on June 20, 2014) dropped the ME3 down another notch by introducing improved noise filtering. See following Dragon NaturallySpeaking 12 Audio Check scores:



Shokz OpenComm UC2 1<sup>st</sup> Place (not reviewed here)



Audio-Technica Pro 8HEmW 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Addasound SR2821 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Audio-Technica Pro 8HEmW [\(Click to See\)](#)

**Note: This microphone works best with a [USB external soundcard](#).**

*If you're looking for a microphone designed for a rough environment (Road warrior) that can additionally withstand the highest environmental noise we could throw at it (like a live concert or construction site), the Pro 8HEmW would be an excellent choice, tying the FlexyMike DEC for 1<sup>st</sup> place for both noise cancellation and accuracy.*

- Only headset microphone, other than the FlexyMike, to produce 100% accuracy in a controlled environment

- 1st microphone to produce 99% accuracy while listening to music at 85 dB
- The only hyper-cardioid headset microphone on our website
- 1st microphone to be rated #1 by our in-house and independent microphone testers in accuracy and noise cancellation (tied with the FlexyMike DEC)

Additional manufacturer information available at [www.audio-technica.com/](http://www.audio-technica.com/)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Addasound SR2831/32 [\(Click to See\)](#)**

Addasound is the most recent line of microphones to be introduced to the speech recognition market ranging from the budget priced \$45 SR2701 to \$50 SR2702 (dual speaker version) to the professional SR2821/22 (dual speaker version) featuring soft protein ear cushions.

It was nearly a two-way tie between VXi and Addasound but Addasound inched into 3<sup>rd</sup> place by offering better pricing; especially the SR2701 model and better comfort with the SR2821/22 protein ear cushions. Like VXi, all Addasound headsets include a built-in USB soundcard with built-in mute but the Addasound headsets additionally include speaker volume control.

### **Previous Reviews:**

If you would like to see some of our previous reviews check out the following:

[KnowBRAINER TableMike Face-Off](#)

[KnowBRAINER Handheld Microphone Face-Off](#)

[KnowBRAINER Headset Microphone Face-Off](#)

[KnowBRAINER Digital Recorder Face-Off](#)

[KnowBRAINER Wireless Microphone Face-Off](#)

[KnowBRAINER USB Soundcard Face-Off](#)

### **Current Gold Standards:**

The following is a list of speech recognition add-ons that we consider to be #1 in their microphone categories

Best Wireless Microphone = [Shokz OpenComm UC](#) Bone Conduction Bluetooth headset

Best Handheld USB Microphone = [Philips SpeechMike Premium SMP3710](#)

Best USB TableMikes = [SpeechWare](#) (TravelMike, 3-in-1 & 6-in-1)

Best Wired Headset Microphone = [Addasound](#) (single ear & stereo)

Best USB soundcard = [SpeechWare MultiAdapter](#)

Best Digital Recorder = [Olympus DS-9500](#)

Best Speech Recognition Application = [Dragon 16](#)

Best Dragon Command Utility = [KnowBrainer 2022](#)

[Lunis Orcutt](#) - Developer of [KnowBrainer 2022](#)

Founder of [KnowBrainer Speech Recognition Forums](#) (the world's most popular speech recognition forum)

[Chat Live](#) w/a Microsoft/Nuance Certified Speech Recognition Solutions Provider or call (615) 884-4558 x1 to speak with the world's most insufferable egotistical "so-called" speech recognition expert

Edited by Big Haired Lady (barefooted shotgun wedding wife since 1977)

When you visit <https://www.knowbrainer.com>, keep in mind that the baby needs shoes



©KnowBrainer 1996-2024