



Samson Stage 5 Review

[Samson Stage 5](#) vs [Hybrid Samson Airline 77](#)

Introduction:

The [Samson Stage 5](#) is a VHF wireless microphone that is designed to offer an amazingly low-cost alternative to what we consider to be the world's most accurate and most noise canceling microphone, the Samson Airline 77.

Pros:

- Unbelievable \$105 price.
- Includes 2 microphones instead of just one; a headset and lapel microphone.
- Runs 10 hours from single 9 V battery.
- Available in 24 discreet different channels.
- 3 year warranty.
- 300 foot range.
- Well-designed 3 Stage battery meter.
- 6 Segment LED RF level and audio metering.
- Headset microphone delivered 98% accuracy in a pristine environment
- Lapel microphone delivered 97% accuracy in a pristine environment
- The headset microphone is well suited to noisy environments but not quite as noise canceling as the Airline 77.

Cons:

- Single antenna as opposed to dual antennae.
- VHF frequencies which are not quite as clean as UHF.
- The transmitter power button is located under the hinge door instead of on the top of the unit where it would be more practical.
- 2% lower accuracy than its big brother, the Airline 77.
- Slightly less noise canceling than the Airline 77.
- The Airline 77 features a completely wireless micro-transmitter that is worn on the back of a headset while the Stage 5 requires a wire running to a belt pack which can catch on door knobs in an office environment.

- We found the headset mic to be a little bit uncomfortable when worn for long periods of time while Airline 77 can be comfortably worn all day.

Bottom Line:

We were very pleased with the accuracy and noise cancellation which we found to be just 2% below the Airline 77. Although the Airline 77 has better noise canceling, the Stage 5 should be adequate for all but the highest noise environments. Although there's more chance of interference on the VHF band, we have only heard interference problems from a handful of our Nady Encore II VHS systems. True diversity receivers cost nearly twice as much and although we normally prefer the dependability of dual antennas, we experienced no dropout when dictating within 75 feet of the unit. As you might expect, the lapel microphone is notably less noise canceling and would only be suitable for moderately quiet environments but also worked quite well and you can't beat the comfort. If you work in a quiet environment, strap on the lapel microphone and enjoy the comfort of going without a headset. The best wired microphones typically cost more than \$105, include a 1 or 2 year warranty and are no more accurate than the Stage 5. If you can't justify the cost of the Airline 77 and still want to go wireless for the price of a good wired microphone, the Stage 5 (3 year warranty) is your best choice and it includes **both**, a lapel microphone and a headset microphone at no extra cost. Frankly, after testing the Stage 5, we can't imagine why anyone would want to pay extra for a wired microphone with a 1 year warranty. Now everyone can afford to cut the cord!