



**WIRELESS
MICROPHONE FACE-OFF**
[Sennheiser Presence UC,](#)
[Sennheiser MB Pro UC/ML, Philips SpeechMike](#)
[Premium Air & Shokz OpenComm UC](#)

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Introduction:

Attempting to select the best wireless 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 wireless 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 seven wireless 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 1st 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 microphones such as the Philips [SpeechMike Premium Air SMP4000](#) Wireless and USB Handheld/TableMike 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 cut the cord. Fortunately, microphone manufacturers have also been busily designing high quality wireless microphones.

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

- You don't like to be tethered to your computer
- You are tired of the wheels of your chair severing your headset cable
- You need to keep both hands free
- You are tired of pushing the microphone cable out of your way

Pros & Cons

Shokz OpenComm UC Pros:

MSRP: \$199 (\$199 Street price)

Accuracy: 100% even in very noisy environments!!!

Noise Cancellation: 11 out of 10

Comfort: 9 Out of 10

Overall Rating: 10 out of 10



Shokz OpenComm UC:

- Absolutely stunning noise rejection (even at a scary Donald Trump rally)
- High fidelity stereo Bone Conduction (no uncomfortable speakers)
- Exceptionally high quality lossless wireless transmission
- 16 hour runtime (we measured closer to 12 hours)
- Most Accurate microphone; wired or wireless
- 2 year manufacturer warranty

Shokz OpenComm UC Cons:

- You will need to wait up to 10 seconds, after turning this headset on, before you can dictate

Philips SpeechMike Premium Air SMP4000

MSRP: \$395 - \$409 (wireless)

Accuracy: 99%

Noise Cancellation: 8 out of 10

Overall Rating: 10 out of 10



Philips SpeechMike Premium Air Pros:

- 99% Accuracy
- Doubles as a desktop TableMike that can be used from a distance of up to 4 feet when combined with the
- Recipient of Nuance's highest 6 Dragon rating
- Very well constructed including lots of informative lights
- More sensitive than any other handheld microphone (longer-range)
- Improved signal-to-noise ratio
- Jar/bump free-floating decoupled microphone element

- Antimicrobial housing
- 12 hour battery life
- Like the PowerMic III, the SpeechMike Air allows you to program any Dragon factory or end-user commands into the programmable buttons.
- Built-in touchpad
- Largest playback speaker in its class
- Automatic microphone mute when setting on a flat surface
- Integrated pop filter
- Auto volume control (increases or decreases volume input as you move closer or away from the microphone)
- 1 year manufacturer warranty

Philips SpeechMike Premium Air Cons:

- None

Sennheiser MB Pro1&2 UC (Bluetooth)

MSRP: \$209/\$219

Accuracy: 99%

Noise Cancellation: 8 out of 10

Overall Rating: 9 out of 10



Sennheiser MB Pro1&2 UC Pros:

- The Best bluetooth microphone we have tested
- **15 Hour battery**
- Wideband bluetooth
- Doesn't require AC power
- **Includes Pre-paired Bluetooth USB dongle**
- 75 foot range
- Bluetooth also works exceptionally well on cell phones
- Pictorial Dragon step-by-step setup guide (KnowBrainer exclusive)
- Optional AC charger (KnowBrainer exclusive)
- Comfortable traditional headset style
- 1 year manufacturer warranty

Sennheiser MB Pro1&2 UC Cons:

- Noise filtering could be a little better

Sennheiser Presence UC (Bluetooth)

MSRP: \$199

Accuracy: 98%

Noise Cancellation: 7 out of 10

Overall Rating: 8 out of 10



Sennheiser Presence UC Pros:

- The 3rd best bluetooth microphone we have tested
- Wideband bluetooth
- The only KnowBrainer approved low-profile Bluetooth headset
- Doesn't require AC power
- Includes Pre-paired Bluetooth USB dongle
- Very Light weight (low-profile)
- Inexpensive
- 75 foot range
- Bluetooth also works well on cell phones
- Pictorial Dragon step-by-step setup guide (KnowBrainer exclusive)
- AC charger (KnowBrainer exclusive)
- 1 year manufacturer warranty

Sennheiser Presence UC Cons:

- Many end-users will find microphone uncomfortable

Conclusions

Bluetooth wireless microphones are just as accurate as wired USB microphones and here to stay.

1st Place ~ OpenComm UC [\(Click to See\)](#)

What can we say other than this is the most accurate, most comfortable and most noise filtering microphone we have tested since 1993. We achieved 100% accuracy when reading text and playing music at 85 dB. To give you some idea... Unsafe noise levels begin with: 90 dB ~ Subway train. 100 dB ~ Factory machinery. 110 dB ~ Car horn. 120 dB ~ Ambulance siren running through our neighborhood to meth lab explosion survivors. 140 dB ~ the Big Haired Lady yelling after her hair got caught in the ceiling fan. 160 dB ~ the Big Haired Lady firing her Dirty Harry 44 Magnum within an inch of my ear when I fell asleep listening to how many trailer park rats she wasted

Additional manufacturer information available at <https://www.Shokz.com/>

2nd Place ~ Sennheiser MB Pro1&2 UC Bluetooth ([Click to See](#))

Accuracy is extremely good but the new OpenComm UC took 1st place because of the increased noise filtering. The MB Pro1/2 includes a choice of 1 or 2 speakers (for playback) and is extremely portable (doesn't require an AC outlet or base station. It is also inexpensive. The MB Pro1/2 features ease-of-use, Bluetooth connectivity, 15 hour battery (that's no typo) 99% accuracy, completely wireless, and doubles as a high quality cell phone microphone, at the flick of the headset toggle. If wireless connectivity, cost, extreme portability and decent comfort (notebook and tablet computer use) are important to your workflow, we believe the MB Pro1/2 would be the best microphone choice.

Additional manufacturer information available at <http://en-us.sennheiser.com/>

3rd Place ~ Philips Premium SpeechMike Air ([Click to See](#))

This microphone is the only wireless handset and only made this list because it is wireless. On the upside, it uses radiofrequency technology (as opposed to Bluetooth) and features the same accuracy but not as noise filtering. This is the perfect microphone if you want programmable buttons which is a classic for physicians and you can use the same microphone on multiple computers. Note the RF AirBridge USB dongle is the same quality as the base station.

Additional manufacturer information available at <https://www.usa.philips.com/>

4th Place ~ Sennheiser Presence UC Bluetooth ([Click to See](#))

The Presence UC features low-profile, ease-of-use, built-in Bluetooth soundcard, 99% accuracy, comfort, true wireless connectivity and powers up in under 2 seconds (including inserting the miniature headset into your ear) and doubles as an awesome cell phone microphone. If wireless connectivity, cost, low-profile and extreme portability (notebook and tablet computer use) are important to your workflow, we believe the Presence UC would be the best microphone choice.

Additional manufacturer information available at <http://en-us.sennheiser.com/>

Previous Reviews:

If you would like to see some of our other 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 Headset Face-Off](#)
[KnowBrainer Wireless Headset Face-Off](#)
[KnowBrainer USB Soundcard Face-Off](#)

Current Gold Standards:

The following is a list of microphones, USB soundcards and digital recorders that we consider to be #1 in their respected categories:

Best Wireless Microphone = [Shokz OpenComm UC Bone Conduction Bluetooth headset](#)
Best Handheld USB Microphone = [Philips SpeechMike Premium SMP3710](#)
Best USB TableMike = [SpeechWare](#)
Best Wired Headset Microphone = [SpeechWare FlexyMike DEC](#)
Best USB soundcard = [SpeechWare MultiAdapter](#)
Best Wireless Microphone = [Shokz OpenComm UC](#)
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

