Head-To-Head Comparison (by Lunis Orcutt)

Nuance PowerMic III vs Philips SpeechMike Premium & New Philips SpeechMike Premium Air SMP4000 wireless

PowerMic III #1 in the Following Categories:

Ease-Of-Use
Dragon Medical Built-in easy to program buttons (no software required)
Best Construction
Excellent office sound noise reduction
Uniquely Designed for Dragon Medical
Optical TrackPoint mouse control
Choice of 3 or 9 foot cord

SpeechMike Premium #1 in the Following Categories:

Largest (dual) Microphone Element
Lowest Price
Best Warranty
AGC (built-in auto gain control)
Choice of pushbutton or slider control

Details

Both microphones feature 99% accuracy, include an antimicrobial surface, are comfortable to hold, feature very good noise filtering and additionally include a KnowBrainer exclusive TableMike stand.

The SpeechMike Premium additionally includes AGC (auto gain control) which gives the SpeechMike Premium a distance and volume control edge.

We were disappointed in the PowerMic III 90 day warranty because the PowerMic construction looks like it could easily justify a two-year warranty. We were also somewhat taken back with the PowerMic III $424 SRP ($89 more than the SpeechMike Premium) but available for $300 when purchased with Dragon Medical.

It's hard to get excited over handheld microphone mouse controls. I am more comfortable with a $29 traditional mouse but there is something to be said about combining mouse controls and programmable buttons into a handheld microphone. The new PowerMic III TrackPoint optical mouse control is significantly more appealing than the previous PowerMic II pointer stick and the even less inviting SpeechMike Premium roller ball.

When it comes to ease-of-use and programming buttons, the PowerMic III is unbeatable. All other handheld microphones require installing a third-party programming utility which is 1 more thing that can go wrong; not to mention having to learn how to use the programming utility. Dragon Medical 10 and higher automatically recognizes the PowerMic III when you plug it in. You can easily program the PowerMic III buttons by opening Dragon options to the PowerMic III tab and assigning any command (including personal commands) to any PowerMic buttons by doing nothing more than typing the name of each command. It doesn't get any easier than that.

Conclusion:

If you're looking for a falling down easy to set up programmable button handheld microphone with very high accuracy, an awesome TrackPoint optical mouse control with a short cord option for tablet and notebook computers the **PowerMic III** would be our 1st choice.

If you're looking for a handheld microphone that will work in any version or edition of Dragon, very high accuracy, AGC, notably less expensive, 4 times the warranty of the PowerMic III then the **SpeechMike Premium** would be our 1st choice. Also note that Philips is kicked up the competition with the new Philips SpeechMike Premium Air SMP4000 and Philips SpeechMike Premium Air SMP4010 Wireless and USB Handheld/TableMike models

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 Telephone Microphone Face-Off
KnowBrainer Digital Recorder 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 = Sennheiser MB Pro1 UC *&* MB Pro2 UC *(Bluetooth)*
Best Combo Telephone Wireless Microphone = Sennheiser SD Pro1
Best Handheld USB Microphone = Philips SpeechMike Premium (LFH-3500)
Best USB TableMike = SpeechWare 3-in-1*,* 6-in-1 *&* 9-in-1
Best Wired Headset Microphone = FlexyMike DEC
Best USB soundcard = SpeechWare MultiAdapter
Best Mobile Bluetooth Microphone = Sennheiser Presence UC
Best Digital Recorder = Olympus DS-9500
Best Speech Recognition Application = Dragon Professional 15
Best Dragon Command Utility = KnowBrainer 2017

Lunis Orcutt *- Developer of KnowBrainer 2017 (see* What Is KnowBrainer*) and founder of* KnowBrainer Speech Recognition Forums *(the world's largest speech recognition forum)*
Chat Live *w/ a Nuance Gold Certified Speech Recognition Solutions Provider*