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## Where is Your Microphone?

[Phil Chambley, Sr. \(K4DPK\)](#) on November 18, 2014  
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My intention in this quick little article is to help some of the new hams, and maybe even some of the older ones, with an aspect of communications audio which they might not presently understand. It has to do with signal-to-noise ratio, not in your receiver, but in your own transmissions. I've often heard the conversational theme, "How does it sound now?" Occasionally, one of the voices in QSO would be competing with a loud blower noise, the audio from his TV in the living room, and birds singing in the chinaberry tree down the block.

At times, I've asked if the guys involved minded a quick question. Most welcomed any comment that might help, so I'd ask, "How far is it from your mouth to your microphone?" Often, the answer is somewhere "between six inches and two feet."

Somehow, folks seem to have gotten the impression (maybe from Sheriff Andy or the dispatcher on 'Car 54, Where Are You') that it's cool to have the mic at arm's length. Not so!

The best communications audio, with the least amount of extraneous noise, will be obtained with the microphone around an inch or so from your lips, and the audio gain set at the proper ALC point while speaking in a normal way. With reduced gain, the blower noise and the house sounds aren't picked up. Foam windscreens over the mike element, or talking across the mic face instead of directly into it, will usually eliminate any breath noise.

The goal in setting up this way is to cause the maximum intelligence to be transmitted, while keeping unwanted and unnecessary background noises at a minimum. After all, that's what communication is all about. This actually does improve your signal to noise ratio on the receiving end, and often will make your signal louder in the bargain.

If you currently operate with the microphone more than an inch or two from your mouth, please try an experiment on the air, with friends listening whose opinions you value: Close-talk the mic and try different lower settings of the microphone gain.

I think you might be pleased with the result.

Phil Chambley, Sr.  
 K4dpk 1955

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**Where is Your Microphone?** [Reply](#)  
 by [DJ0RD](#) on November 18, 2014 [Mail this to a friend!](#)  
 If you don't believe it, see where virtually all military mikes are located.

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Vy 73 de Bob DJ0RD/WU5T (Capt. USAF 1962-70)

**Where is Your Microphone?**

by [AE5SB](#) on November 18, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I agree! If I am talking to you, why do you need to hear my furnace come on, my tv, and of course my xyl calling me to supper?

**Where is Your Microphone?**

by [AB1LT](#) on November 18, 2014

[Reply](#)

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I completely agree. I used to fly an open cockpit plane with a no-muffler exhaust. I kept the mic almost touching my lips and had no problems communicating.

Good point about setting the ALC and/or gain properly. I need to check that on my rig.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [N1DVJ](#) on November 18, 2014

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Every aviation mic I've ever used had a 'lip bar'. A bar across the top of the mic designed to lightly touch your lip as you talk to keep your mouth close to the mic.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [NO9E](#) on November 18, 2014

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It all depends on the microphone. Special communication elements like Heil HC4 and HC5 work well close. Wide coverage microphones have lots of basses when talked too close. You can hear that effect during conferences or conventions. Pros keep a distance of about 15 cm. Ignacy, NO9E

**Where is Your Microphone?**

by [DJ0RD](#) on November 18, 2014

[Reply](#)

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Yes these but these mikes are not really suitable for our type of communication environment.

Vy 73 de Bob DJ0RD/WU5T

**Where is Your Microphone?**

by [K0CBA](#) on November 18, 2014

[Reply](#)

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And to avoid "poppin' your P's", keep the mic at a slight angle to your tater trap.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [VE3FMC](#) on November 18, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

If you are concerned about back ground noise at your operating position then go here, download the app for your Iphone or Ipad if you have one.

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/decibel-10th/id448155923?mt=8>

This app measures the noise levels in your shack, it can be very handy when it comes to eliminating back ground noise such as computer fans, amp fans etc.

If the DB level is under 40 then you have a pretty quiet operating room.

**Where is Your Microphone?**

by [AF5DN](#) on November 18, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Every Operator, Radio, Microphone, Audio Processing equipment, Car, Field Location, Room you are operating from, etc. etc. is different from every other.

Everyone needs to experiment with their personal setup. If you are not asking "How does it sound now?". Then you will never operate optimally for your situation.

I personally know a HAM who has a rather robust voice and must turn the microphone backwards and talk into the back side of it.

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have  
Engineers.

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YOU  
TALK TO  
OURS.



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Experimentation is the nature of this hobby.

Give folks some credit and let them experiment(that's half the fun) , they will figure it out.

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [NA4IT](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

GREAT article and advice!

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [WD8JWJ](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Yes, good article with good ideas. I use a Heil HM10 and have the mic at about a 45 degree to my pie hole, about a 1/2" away. Fairly quiet in the basement with the furnace on the other side of a wall. Every once and a great while the XYL will yell down the stairs for something. I have to make sure the VOX is off before I "yell back". Hi Hi  
73, Bill, WD8JWJ

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [W4CNA](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Handy...thanks for the tips!

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [KB4QAA](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Thanks.

Bill, KB4QAA (1964 Campbell's Vegetable Soup eater)

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [WA7PRC](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Those are good tips. The easiest thing to do is close the shack door or, if there is no door to close, use a barrier between you and the noise source. Recording studios have been doing that for many decades.

It also helps to use a unidirectional microphone, with the null pointed toward your amplifier. The best thing to do is reduce the source of noise, using a shroud and/or baffle.

When amplifier noise can't be reduced with the use of baffling or barriers, you can use an outboard box that includes an expander or gate. I prefer an expander because the gain increase/decrease is "softer". I use a Symetrix 528E single channel 'Voice Processor' that has that, and other audio tools. When I pause, gain is reduced, and background noise disappears.

\*\*\*\*\*

When I had difficulty being heard on SSB in my '69 Plymouth Barracuda convertible (even w/ the top up), I switched modes to Morse.

To hear better, instead of a wide response dynamic earphone, I used a cheap crystal earphone. It had a nice peak around 1KHz -- a poor man's audio filter.

v7 73,  
Bryan WA7PRC

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [KY5U](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Good article, Phil. Seems as amateurs we're at cross purposes. We want loud audio but we want to sound like the late Don De La Fontaine (the movie trailer "in a world..." deep voice guy)..Remember ham radio is communications, not broadcast radio. Bassy mikes waste audio power in the SSB bandwidth of 2.8khz. The average ham should shoot for pleasant audio. If you want to sound like the essb guys, kicking the mike gain way up won't help. The average high quality mike will need equalization for SSB or audio processing equip and lots of power for

essb.

My point is that you should follow DPK's advice. If the result is too bassy audio, turn down the bass or cross talk the mike. Adjust your rig equalization for pleasant sounding audio.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [W8AAZ](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Beware a lot of directional(cardiod, hyper cardiod etc.) mics not made for ham radio use will boost bass way too much if you talk close. Then they sound not so great. An exception is some Eleetrovoice mics like the 664, which were made to reduce this effect and are good sounding for ham radio. Might be a good idea to get some headphones and try your rig's MONITOR function if it has that, or otherwise use a dummy load and another radio(usually with little or no antenna) to listen with. That should get you in the ballpark. Having several mics to experiment with is a great idea, and you have a backup, otherwise, if it fails you might have to revert to CW, not so bad an idea to many.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [KD8MJR](#) on November 18, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Great article, just be careful with lip smacking noise. My Icom 7600 with SM-20 mic works better at 2-3 inches. At one inch it picks up lip smacking noises.

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [WB6MMJ](#) on November 19, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I've told a few people on the air that they have room echo and other things coming through with their audio.

When I asked how far away their Mic is from their mouth, I got the same answer as did the gentleman who wrote this post. Sometimes they are two feet or more away.

People! Please get close to your mic and then adjust your mic gain to the proper level.

I sure don't want to hear your wife flushing the toilet or your dog, on the back 40, barking.

For the people with noise gates, Turn them off!

I'm tired of listening to broken up audio.

Noise gates were made for fairly quiet rooms and if you have to crank them up for your noisy shack, it's only going to hurt your audio.

Next time you see video of a DJ look at where the mic is compared to where his mouth is.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [VE3FMC](#) on November 19, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I use a Heil mic on a boom for the majority of my SSB operating. So I can position that mic wherever I want. Normally I have the mic (which has the foam cover on it) about an inch from my mouth. Works for me.

The audio that annoys me the most is the audio with back ground noise, and that annoying piercing tinny sound. And those who feel they must scream into the mic to get the radio to transmit!

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [WA7PRC](#) on November 19, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

WB6MMJ:

"I sure don't want to hear your wife flushing the toilet or your dog, on the back 40, barking.

For the people with noise gates, turn them off!"

The above is self-contradictory. Noise gates (and expanders) work to REDUCE amplification when you pause. They don't increase the problem; they decrease the problem. OTOH, a compressor does the opposite. The BEST scheme is a compressor following an expander or gate.

At least, that's what we used when I worked in broadcast engineering and later, in engineering for a manufacturer of pro sound processing

equipment.

vy 73,  
Bryan WA7PRC

#### Where is Your Microphone?

by [K5RMD](#) on November 19, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I use a Kenwood TS-850 SAT being fed with a Heil Pr-40 on a boom. The microphone is placed at a 45 degree angle to my mouth and I almost touch the pop filter on the front of the microphone. The processor barley bumps up on my transmitted signal. I am heard clearly all over the world.

#### Where is Your Microphone?

by [KC8EQF](#) on November 19, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I agree. I keep the Mic at the end of my nose when speaking and I never have a audio problem. Thanks for setting the record straight, 73

#### RE: Where is Your Microphone?

by [AF6AU](#) on November 19, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Fantastic Topic... Not just Amateur Radio either...

Absolutely, 1-2 inch (25-50mm for the rest of the world) distance, and slightly off the side, .... If you have a quiet environment (like a sound studio), and a sensitive microphone, okay crank the gain and get distance so you can recline that easy chair and spill that beer on yourself. Hand mics, 1 inch-25mm is great for most.

Do you know where the microphone pickup hole is on the front of your H.T.??? Find it okay? For the rest of us?? Please??

You guys working repeater FM mobile, with the window down driving at highway speeds, get closer baby... and out of the wind blast.

Please, oh please, do not COUGH or "Pop your P'S", it's annoying, sometimes painful with headphones on...

If a metal microphone, best have a good ground, RF, and line voltage wise...

On a side note: Ever see old "Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers" concert videos? ... Tom sings wet-mouthed, the mics got well... expectorated upon. He was known for wetting the first 2 rows in concerts. Keep the mic dry or they corrode internally. Why ruin a nice heil element?

MY wife is a medical transcriber, you would be astounded how terrible many professional Doctors sound over a hand microphone. They mutter, slur, cough, and plus foreign accents, it's terrible sounding. How she does it, is amazing. I have had her listen in on a QSO to tell me what some other Ham is saying..

My daughters were in High School performing arts vocal Music Choirs, and you would be suprised how many singers have NEVER been instructed by their teachers/trainers to get close and slightly off-side to the mic (unless you have a studio, a studio mic, and a pop-shield).

Wanna to be heard Q5 copy? Get close to the mic and cut the gain a bit.. stop the QRN! Be Crisp, Articulate, have clean Audio, no anoying background noise if avoidable. It's just wonderful to hear, and drive that SSB rig to full smoke with ease...

YES THIS APPLIES TO YOUR PHONES TOO!

73's

#### RE: Where is Your Microphone?

by [WA7PRC](#) on November 19, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

My preference is a headset. Handheld, desk, and boom-mounted microphones require you to maintain the relative position of your

microphone to your pie hole. With a headset, no matter which way your move/turn your noggin, the microphone is ALWAYS in the correct position. Compared to a handheld microphone, you're not wasting half of your hands just to hold the @#%\$\*# microphone. A headset or boom-mounted microphone, compared to a desk microphone, you're not wasting valuable desk space. Often, a desk microphone is between the operator and the rig... just where you DON'T want it.

I still have an inexpensive (\$20) RS 33-3038 unidirectional dynamic microphone on a boom, for the few times when I want to look and sound like a "Big Time Broadcaster". When I use it, other stations think I'm using a \$200 Heil or high falutin' brand.

vy 73,  
Bryan WA7PRC

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [WB6MMJ](#) on November 19, 2014  
WA7PRC

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I guess you didn't read what I wrote.  
Noise Gates are not made for the kind of high level noise that some people have in their shacks.  
They are made for low level noise.  
When you use them with higher level noise, such as amplifier blowers ect, people will turn up the noise gate and it starts chopping up their audio.  
I have heard this happen to many Amateur stations on the air.  
It makes their audio very unpleasant to listen to.  
I run a Yaesu FT 950 with a PR 781 mic.  
I talk close to the mic and adjust my mic gain to the proper level.  
NO noise gate needed here.  
I wouldn't own one.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [WA7PRC](#) on November 20, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

WB6MMJ wrote:

WA7PRC I guess you didn't read what I wrote.  
Noise Gates are not made for the kind of high level noise that some people have in their shacks.  
They are made for low level noise.  
When you use them with higher level noise, such as amplifier blowers ect,[sic] people will turn up the noise gate and it starts chopping up their audio.  
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I run a Yaesu FT 950 with a PR 781 mic.  
I talk close to the mic and adjust my mic gain to the proper level.  
NO noise gate needed here.  
I wouldn't own one.

\*\*\*\*\*

REPLY:

Au contraire mon ami. I DID read what you wrote. And, it is still in error. PROPER use of a noise gate (or expander) along with other processing equipment works fine. Personally, I prefer an expander because they operate smoother than a gate.

At least, that's what I learned in my years in broadcast engineering and later, design engineering for a well-known pro audio OEM. IME, you missed that last part.

I would and DO own one. When I run my SB-220 w/ aftermarket fan motor, the properly-adjusted expander in my Symtatrix 528E 'Voice Processor' works well to reduce gain approximately 20 dB, effectively taking the significant fan noise out of the picture. When I'm not operating Morse, I typically use a headset because the microphone is ALWAYS in the correct location. The few times I'm not using the headset, I use an inexpensive RS #33-3038 that has a frequency and polar response similar to the PR-781 but, is 1/10 the cost.

vy 73 es gl,  
Bryan WA7PRC

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [N5YFC](#) on November 20, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I don't remember, when I passed 5wpm and started using CW I got hooked and never went back to the mic except for 2M - 70CM FM

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [SHORTWIRE](#) on November 20, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

What an OCD FOOL the author sounds like..!

Ragchew is not the same as DX!

The pleasant, cosy sound with ambience for roundtable local FM on VHF, vs the sharp, distinct bark for HF SSB Low-SNR DX.

The first you can listen to for hours, under good conditions.  
The other is for Rubberstamp Communication with static and QRM.

Only a complete Assberger would think that these two should sound the same..!

The amateur community unfortunately has more than their fair share of that attitude, but that goes for most technical societies.

A standard Yaesu close-talk hand microphone is mainly suitable for high-noise locations, or, mostly, the bin...

Many ignorant n00bs join a ragchew with their sharp, unpleasant sounding DX setup, and don't understand why no one wants to talk to them for any length of time... :-)

There is a time to Chat, and a time to Sieg (Bob)Heil, and they need separate tools, or at least separate settings..

Good Sounding microphones can be found here:  
<http://www.thomann.de/gb/microphones.html>

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [AD9DX](#) on November 20, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

My mic? It's in the drawer.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [KY5U](#) on November 20, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Shortwire,

I fail to see how ad hominem attacks of the author serves to do anything but discredit your point. Not that it needs help. Whether ragchewing or working DX, the commonality is not to interfere with others by the maladjustment of your equipment. Secondly distorted audio never helped anyone work friends or DX. That was DPK's point. Yes, a higher audio FREQUENCY assists DX working, but not distortion and audio cranked up so loud you can hear a mouse burp 300 feet away(LEVEL). Working DX where you splatter 10kHz across the band is not what you're advocating, is it?

I will make the observation that you post without a call sign. The only one in this thread. By your reaction, I suspect you got your feelings stepped on and I am pretty sure that was not the intention of the OP.

Finally I followed the link you suggested and looked at the mikes. Nice selection. Look at the frequency response of those mikes and you'll see anywhere between 20-80Hz to 12000 to 20000kHz response. They are all pretty flat and very few will work on ham sets without some equalization. Also many condenser mikes that work on less than -48V (like computer

mikes) have impedances of 1500 ohms, while the rig looks for 600 ohms. They'll work but again some adjustment will be needed.

There is value to posting with your call sign so your words carry the weight of reality. Otherwise one might assume you have some ax to grind, which I assume is not the case.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [K4DPK](#) on November 20, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

On reflection, it seems likely at least one reader misunderstood my simple attempt to help some operators correct a misconception regarding voice signal vs. background noise.

Let me recap:

My intention.....is to help some of the new hams, etc.  
If you currently operate with the microphone more than an inch or two from your mouth, please try an experiment on the air, with friends listening whose opinions you value: Close-talk the mic and try different lower settings of the microphone gain.

Apologies to Mr. Shortwire for having too many big words in the original post.

Bless your heart.

Phil C. Sr.  
k4dpk

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [KD8ZGW](#) on November 21, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Some of this reminds me of the CBers of yesteryear buy a D104 crank it wide open yell at it and see if they can hear you ten channels away and on the neighbors TV. I was always told to talk close and across a mic in a normal tone for best results.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [WV4L](#) on November 21, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Thanks for the recap Phil. Good advice. When I first started out I had an Elmer provide me with the same sage advice. Like others here, using different mics, one has to experiment a little and get feed back from others on how ones station sounds on the air. Audio quality is just one of the many ways ops. try to tweek how their station sounds to others.

73

Wayne C.  
WV4L

**Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [K8QV](#) on November 21, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I think it's sad that this article is even necessary, but it is. Hopefully some offenders will read it.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

[Reply](#)

by [KW6LA](#) on November 21, 2014

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I think it's sad that this article is even necessary..... Yes it is, but thank you Phil for one more chance at fixing some of it. I must say SHORTWIRE- has said what I can't put into words so well. The STRIDENT audio you hear for a simple conversation / rag chew is uncalled for. Time and place for it, not to say it has no place for DX but horrible for a nice exchange. The comments on microphone posture are not very accurate either. I guess if you own only one mic (hand held ) you would never know the difference.  
Please... Bob would cringe at some of the comments here. I laugh at all the Broadcast engineers that were meter readers and comment on audio in this form wow! Let's make this



easy, If any Hams need help with audio settings, find someone you admire ( sound quality ) or DX and see if they can help you get there. Lots of help for the asking... but you have to ask. YOU will find more people will want to talk to YOU, when you sound better. Easy concept hey ? Now have Fun !!

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [KY5U](#) on November 21, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

What was the most hard to get item after 2007? The linear amp. It was now legal for the new CB Ham to own one and they bought every one on eBay. Likewise the blaring +2 audio became more prevalent. There was never a "zero reset" coming into ham radio where new hams started from scratch and learned the proper ham ways. They came in with a base of knowledge gained from a dead branch of the radio tree and are going on to falling on their face arguing that they are right and the world is wrong. We always need new blood in ham radio, but much of the blood we've been getting the last few years has radio STDs.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [KX5JT](#) on November 21, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I agree with the original poster and author of this "article".

However there are times when I love to the ambient sounds of a ham shack. I've heard some plate modulated AM stations where the creek of the chair and the chirps of the crickets were being picked up in hi-fi and it sounded AWESOME. But that's the exception to the rule.

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [WD8DK](#) on November 22, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

6" average. I disagree with holding a mic 1'2". I do not like to hear the "popping, breathing and other noises" associated with holding the mic too close.

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [KG5AXF](#) on November 22, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

As a new Ham i appreciate the advice!

I recently had to adjust my mic because someone noticed a soft thud or wobbling sounds. I checked everything and finally decided to record a digital audio sample and played it back a few times. I realized it was my ceiling fan. The mic was picking up the the blades cutting though the air. I researched a bit and discovered that this happens host often in humid environment...I'm in Houston, so yeah..humid environment.

At any rate, a layer of foam took care of the issue.

73, KG5AXF

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [K0KNX](#) on November 23, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Seems like many of the Mediterranean / Middle East operators often sound like they're operating in an unfinished basement with metal ducting all about.

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [KE4ZHN](#) on November 24, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Nothing sounds crappier on the air than the clowns who crank the mic gain way up with the compression on yelling at their mike 3 feet away. Couple this with amplifier blower noise that rivals a 747 idling on the tarmac and it's a real joy to listen to.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [N4CR](#) on November 25, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Re: gain up compressor up.

I couldn't agree more. I replied to one who commonly splatters 40 meters up all night.

Told him he was overdriving.

His response was that I was jealous. Then it was that I must be prejudiced. Then it was he hasn't changed the settings in years. (that one I already knew)

The truth is he is always massively overdriven and splattering all over the place. And it's a shame because with less drive and less compression, he'd sound 100 times better.

A few minutes later, someone from California jumped on and said he sounded great, don't change anything. Shamefully wrong, but still, just reinforced that terrible behavior by the IT ham.

Frustrating.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [N1DVJ](#) on November 25, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Guy was a true CBer at heart!

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [N1DVJ](#) on November 25, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

"I recently had to adjust my mic because someone noticed a soft thud or wobbling sounds. I checked everything and finally decided to record a digital audio sample and played it back a few times. I realized it was my ceiling fan. "

It's amazing sometime the utility you can get from some of the sound editor packages. In your case, you had the advantage of recording a 'clean' but otherwise impinged on audio. Then you could sweep the room and find matching sounds.

We had an interference problem a number of years ago. Guy would come on the repeater and 'harsh' his voice and make obscene comments repeatedly. I recorded it with BlasterMaster (that should tell you how long ago it was, the DOS 6.2 days!) and then edited out his comments so that I had nothing but the background noise. Caught a cuckoo clock in the background once. Then I started recording everybody and doing the same thing, listening for that clock. I think I would have eventually caught the guy, until a friend asked me on the air how my search for the clock was going. AARRGGH!!!!

Some people have said you can grab a good signature of a radio if you are on the input with a strong enough signal. I don't know, could you get even part of the phase noise?

The tools available to amateurs (no pun intended at all) for investigations are absolutely amazing.

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [SWMAN](#) on November 28, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

I use a Heil HC-5 cart in my handheld mic with a Kenwood TS-570 with no EQ at 1 inch away from my mouth and get good audio reports very often. Plain and simple. Works good for me.

**Where is Your Microphone?**

by [KW4AE](#) on November 30, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

What's a microphone?

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [N1DVJ](#) on November 30, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

"What's a microphone?"

I think it was a lame attempt to be cute...

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**

by [K1WJ](#) on December 1, 2014

[Reply](#)

[Mail this to a friend!](#)

2 inches from the mic always works good for my setups. Adjust Comp. &

mic gain & good to go. Presently running a TS-2000 / IC-7200 / TS-940S and a TS-50. 73 K1WJ

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [W5DPK](#) on December 2, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Good article and I hope it will be helpful to many My pet peeve regarding audio has been the signal that sounds like crap and looks bad on the pan adapter. Yes I have a Flex. He or she will ask for comments about the audio and people tell him or her they sound great. Lets get real here people. If they sound bad, tell them. Then have the patience to work with them to correct the problems. I hang out with a bunch of folks who tell it like it is. Come on frequency and ask for a signal report and get ready for a bunch of critical comments. But by the time we are done with you I can say you will sound as good as you possible can with what you have and a bunch of suggestions to make it better. Newbie's ask for help if you have any doubt of your signal quality, but if you come around 7195 or 3870 wear your thick skin because thats how we play. But I guarantee you will have a much improved signal

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [KC2QYM](#) on December 3, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Has anyone tried the TP compression tube unit? It is a ridiculously cheap way to compress your audio and sound like the most obnoxious screechy DX hunter on the air. BTW, the brand name doesn't matter; you can use Marcal, Charmin, or even generic brands.

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [N1BHH](#) on December 7, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

As further advise for those with the modern rigs, cut down on the excessive bass component, most of you don't have the bass in your voice, adding it does not work, it sounds like crap. As well, the room you are in does wonders, carpet on the floor is better than a room with nothing but a wood floor, or nothing on the walls. Added reverberation also does nothing to make you sound intelligent.

And for all those who think turning up the mic gain will help you get that rare DX, or if you yell (You might not even know you yell) take your own voice down to a normal speaking voice, you sound like you might soon have a heart attack. It's a hobby, it isn't broadcasting. There are hams who are true broadcasters and you will notice they don't do any of the yelling or enhancing that is required in their profession.

Have fun.

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [JOHNZ](#) on December 9, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

@N1BHH

It is no surprise to see the poor operating characteristics which you so accurately describe. They are the result of decades of dumbing down of the ham radio hobby from what was once a technical hobby into the CB radio wasteland it is today.

We have the ARRL and the FCC to thank for this. Working in cahoots with each other, they gave us the mess we have today. ARRL destroyed ham radio for selfish monetary gain, and government bureaucrats were all too happy to have less administrative workload.

The DX and contest mentality crowd migrated into ham radio from 27 mHz, bringing all their nasty habits with them.

Yup, all that is required to depart from 27 mHz is to memorize the answers to 20 questions, jack up the mic gain all the way and away we go!

Whoopee, 10-4?

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [N1DVJ](#) on December 9, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Give me a break with the whining. Oh, poor poor pittyful me, the ARRL is at fault. Oh, poor poor pittyful me, the FCC is at fault. I'm really sick of hearing the whiners whine. You're full of crap and it smells.

The ham bands have ALWAYS had the problems it has today. Only if you take it by percentages, it was WORSE years ago. Yeah, worse. With the no-nothings that felt entitled and empowered and wanting to be worshiped. Ok, to some extent that applies to the ARRL, but they are hardly the cause of it. We have more people on the same bandspace and the behavior is bound to degrade. MOSTLY from those that, regardless of what they 'say', just don't want the congestion, the crowding, and most importantly, their loss of being someone looked up to, but usually for the wrong reasons. Those who expect or demand respect are usually those least deserving of it, and it sure applies here.

STOP WHINING AND BLAMING!

**RE: Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [SWMAN](#) on December 9, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

How come everybody always blames the CBers for all of the ham problems ??

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [WA4NUN](#) on December 13, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

Thanks for a good quick read in addition to many interesting remarks. I do know what is meant by A DX voice. I hear them everyday. Too much compression, too much audio, too much splatter. Many times I can almost hear an arrogance and overbearing personality in the speech manner. This article can not help those folks. Their help needs to be found from a professional from a particular medical field.

Using a boom is a true help. A directional mic helps keep the side and back noise away, leaves both hands free for the keyboard and mouse that stole the space your mic stand had, and the mic easily finds it way an inch or less away from your mouth. At this range a wind sock should be a requirement. It not only acts as a low end pop filter, it acts as a spray filter. After a fair number of hours use it will need a sink soaking in a mild detergent. Better a \$10 piece of foam take a beating than a \$200 microphone.

**Where is Your Microphone?**[Reply](#)by [JOHNZ](#) on December 15, 2014[Mail this to a friend!](#)

@WA4NUN

I have always maintained there is a common personality trait shared by compulsive testers and compulsive DXers. And when they cannot find enough contest and DX drama, they are found on 14313, participating in that insanity.

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