

Re: Microphones vs. ear sensitivity

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- *From:* Pooh Bear <rabbitsfriendsandrelations@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 01 Jun 2005 21:16:52 +0100
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Ban wrote:

> Pooh Bear wrote:

>>>

>>> So, do microphones get much better than this?

>>

>> Professional condensor mics are often specified in terms of their dBA

>> equivalent noise. I haven't heard of one lower than 12 dBA.

>>

>>> Or is the ear such a marvellous organ that it is yet to be beaten?

>>

>> It is.

>>

>> Graham

>

> I do not know if it is true but this mike from Bruel and Kjaer has extremely

> low noise:

> The model 4179 is claimed to have -5.5dB(A) thermal noise only, that would

> be more sensitive than the human ear. <http://www.bksv.com/3035.asp>

It's a larger than average capsule (see diameter) which helps but even so that's an astonishingly low noise figure. Looking at the data it has a polarising voltage of 200V. That helps too.

> Neumann has one with +7dB(A)

> <http://www.neumann.com/infopool/mics/produkte.php?ProdID=t1m103&Language=Engl>

> and another one: BCM104

> They also have a mike with built-in DSP with the same sensitivity.

> http://www.neumann.com/infopool/mics/produkte_sol_d.php?ProdID=solution-d&Language=Engl

Not too surprised at Neumann. Good products. I was thinking of more affordable mics !

I once owned an Neumann U87 – a classic mic. Last time I checked the RSP was £1600.

Graham

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