

Using the Lectrosonic Wireless Microphone



The Lectrosonic Wireless Lavalier System is an extremely effective tool for picking up great audio for both mobile and static shots. Let's start by looking through the kit.

In the kit are two devices: the larger device is the receiver, the smaller is the transmitter. Each needs a battery.



You will also find a short XLR cable, 9 volt batteries, and a case for the lavalier microphone and some accessories.



To put the 9 v. batteries in, push gently against the grooves of the latch on the bottom of each device, and the latch should open.

Line up the negative and positive sides of the battery with the picture inside the battery slot, and slide the battery into place.

If the battery is placed in the device the wrong way, the latch will not close- remove the battery and double-check its orientation.



To connect the wireless receiver to your recording device, first connect one end of the XLR cable to the port on the receiver.



Plug the other end of the XLR into the audio input on your recording system, whether that means directly into a camera, a dedicated audio recorder, or a mixer.



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Flip the switch on top of the receiver all the way to the right. Now the receiver is on.

The dial can be used to change the output gain of the audio signal, but it is best to make adjustments on your audio recorder. Leave this dial at halfway.

The receiver has a patch of velcro on it. Some cameras have a patch of velcro so that you can mount the receiver directly to the camera. In other cases, your tripod might have a velcro area to attach it to.

The lavalier microphone is in the blue case. Lift up on the tab marked “lift”, open the case, and take out the microphone cable. When you put the cable away, take care to coil it gently and neatly. The wires are very delicate and can easily be damaged if crimped or stretched.

The microphone cord and transmitter port use a five-pronged connection (as opposed to the XLR cables’ 3-prong connection).

Face the small button on the microphone cord towards the clip on the back of the device- this should help orient the prongs correctly. Gently push the plug in until it clicks into place.

The button you used as orientation is a locking device- when you remove the cord from the transmitter at the end of your shoot, push the black button in to release the lock before you (gently) pull the cord out.

Remember to pull the cord from its collar (the thicker part), not the thin wire itself. This also goes for the XLR cables you connected earlier.



Using the Lectrosonic Wireless Microphone



Flip the switch on top of the transmitter to “On”. If the switch goes halfway it will land on Mute, and the audio signal won’t reach the receiver. This is something to be aware of.

The dial on the transmitter will adjust the microphone’s input levels. Use this sparingly, only if needed.

Again, it is best to use your recording device to maintain good levels.



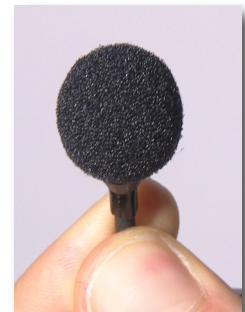
Now that both devices are on, the recording device is receiving an audio signal. If you are not seeing a signal on the recording device, backtrack your way through the process to be sure that your device’s connection is live, and that all wireless connections have been made securely, batteries in and devices on.

Monitor levels with headphones as well as the visual readout on the recording device.



A lavalier accessory is a small wind muff, which you can place onto the microphone.

This will reduce noise from the rustling of a shirt, wind, or sibilance from a person’s speech.



Some notes on using a wireless lavalier microphone:

Find a suitable place on the talent’s clothing to attach the microphone using either the clip found in the blue accessories box or a folded piece of tape.

Determine this based on the level of their normal speaking voice, if they need to move or walk during the shot, and what sort of clothing they are wearing. If the microphone needs to be hidden consider running the cord underneath a shirt or other appropriate piece of clothing. Ask politely before touching the talent’s clothing. Even better, ask them to run the microphone cord through themselves.



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The transmitter should be out of the shot. If the talent has pockets clip the transmitter inside their pocket, with the device hidden. Pull the end of the cord out from wherever it was fed through, and plug it into the transmitter. Make sure the transmitter is switched on. Beware again of leaving the switch on mute.

The transmitter can also rest somewhere out of frame if the talent does not have pockets and is seated for an interview.

With the microphone and transmitter in place, you should prepare your receiver for the shot. On back of the receiver is a large area of Velcro. Use this to attach the receiver to the side of your camera.

When your shoot is finished, the first thing to do is approach your talent and retrieve your audio equipment. Unplug the microphone cord from the transmitter. Press the small button on the plug and gently unplug it. Unclip the transmitter from their pocket, and turn it off. Allow the talent to pull the cord out from their shirt, or ask them if you can, unclipping the microphone and being sure to pull the cord out from the top. It is important to unplug the cord from the transmitter first.

Make sure the microphone and wind muff are placed back into the microphone case. Put the wind muff back into one of the small compartments under the lid of the case. Loosely coil the microphone and cord and place them into the case.

Un-mount the receiver from the camera, simply pulling until the Velcro releases. Unplug the XLR cable from the camera or other device. Unplug the XLR cable from the receiver by pressing in the button and pulling. Turn off the receiver.

Put everything back into the kit. Make sure the two devices are off. Lay the receiver vertically so the antennae fits, and place the transmitter and microphone case on the other side. Coil the XLR cable and slide it into the pocket on the inside of the case. Spare batteries can be slid into this pocket as well. The case is now just how you found it, and ready for the next person who uses it.