

## Microphone Purchase Guide

*The references to 'beginner, intermediate, advanced' models are less a reflection of user skill-level and more a reflection on the complexity of the microphone operation model. In short, how much faff is involved.*

### Beginner

#### **Audio Technica ATR2500 USB+ (c.£80)**

- Enhanced low-end and crisp highs - sounds very bright
- Build quality can be a little flimsy
- Zero-latency monitoring (hear yourself through headphones with no lag)

#### **Rode NT-USB (c.£150)**

- Quite a natural sound
- Easy plug-and-play accessibility
- Zero-latency monitoring

### Intermediate

#### **Zoom H2n (c.£130)**

- Very flat, natural sound (in stereo!)
- Plug-and-play accessibility with a few buttons to press on the mic
- Zero-latency monitoring
- It's designed as a portable recorder, so can be taken out to record whatever you like, making it useful for rehearsals or demo recordings

## Advanced

### **Mic-with-interface setup (c.£180+)**

- Very modular, you can use any XLR mic to get any sound you like (for voice, I'd recommend a Rode NT1a, a Shure SM7b, or an AKG 414)
- Not very accessible, but very accommodating if you need specific sounds or a lot of gain (volume) control. Very good for use with electric instruments (with a jack out)
- Zero-latency monitoring on most models
- The kit requires extra purchases; leads, stands, clips
- Amazing capabilities for self-recording through audio software such as a DAW
- Brilliant standard for home-studios. Investing in a nice interface would enable you to expand over time, developing a range of mics for varying applications
- Many companies offer entry-level bundles (e.g. Focusrite Scarlett Studio) to give you a position from which to upgrade if needed.