



Sound Principles

What Type of Microphone Should I Use for My Conference Room: Boundary or Gooseneck and Why?

Both types of microphones are well versed for conference room applications. Many variations of both types are available to accommodate the specific needs of the customer. Over the last 10 years we have seen a trend calling for a lower profile microphone on the boardroom table.

Boundary layer microphones certainly meet the criteria for today's conference room. Small and inconspicuous, they are usually placed 15 to 40 inches away from the participant. Because the microphone element is in such close proximity to the table surface, out-of-phase problems are virtually non-existent. This is the result of direct and reflected sound reaching the capsule almost simultaneously. Some boundary layer microphones have multiple elements. This solution not only minimizes the number of microphones on the conference table, but also involves less labor, without sacrificing audio performance.

Gooseneck microphones are very popular in boardrooms. Offered in different patterns, lengths and sizes, they are often selected when gain before feedback is a major concern. Because of their reach, they can bring the microphone capsule much closer to the source and therefore increase the intelligibility of speech in difficult situations. Another situation would be, when using laptop computers. Opening a laptop in front of the microphone will block the boundary layer microphone's pick-up pattern, making it unusable. Here, a gooseneck microphone with a longer shaft would be more appropriate.

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