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Subject: Mic question

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2007 21:22:25 GMT

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A friend is asking me about the Neumann UM57. They've used a modded U67 which they like a lot but it's out of the price range.

If you were buying a mic for female and male vocals in a funk band, would you select the UM57?

What else would you consider (from any manufacturer, at the price of a UM57 or lower)?

Cheers,

-Jamie

[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

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Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Neil](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 02:09:33 GMT

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Jamie K <[Meta@Dimensional.com](mailto:Meta@Dimensional.com)> wrote:

>

>A friend is asking me about the Neumann UM57. They've used a  
>modded U67 which they like a lot but it's out of the price  
>range.

If they like the "modded" u-67's (assuming you're referring to the very popular Stephen Paul sub-micron mod), then I would recommend trying the Mojave MA200. Not exactly like the "S.P.-67's" (which I've heard & used before), but very warm & fuzzy & in the same kinda ballpark. The diaphragm on the MA-200 is only 3 microns - so, not as thin as Stephen's 0.9-micron mod, but still half the thickness of most common LDC diaphragms, and in that regard, is closer to "that" sound, and at a grand, is about a third of the price you'd pay for what I've seen clean UM57's priced out at recently.

>If you were buying a mic for female and male vocals in a funk  
>band, would you select the UM57?

Dunno, never used one - only answering the portion of your query that I'm able to :)

>What else would you consider (from any manufacturer, at the  
>price of a UM57 or lower)?

Not knowing if you've found a bitchin' clean minty-fresh UM57 for \$500 somewhere I will assume you mean in the "\$3k-ish or less" range. Here's my list:

#### Neumann M-149:

Sometimes can be found in the \$3k range, sometimes more, but if you can find a good clean affordable one, go for it. Very smooth, almost round-ish tone (not nasal, or boomy, nor "peaky" up top), no real peaks or valleys, very even, yet open sound. Multi-pattern feature is nice to have, too.

#### Soundelux E251C:

One of my favorite mics, without a doubt, the 251C is the cardioid-only version. Tough to find used, but if you do find one it'll be in the high end of the price range we're talking about. KILLER high end (VERY smooth & airy!), and great presence, too... proximity effect is very noticeable if you want it to be (ie: if worked in-close).

#### Soundelux E47C:

Another cardioid-only version. Absolutely kicks ass. I can't say as I've ever seen one used for sale, but I would imagine it'd possibly be in the same/similar price range as the 251C used (even though it's more \$\$\$ new). This mic has a less-pronounced high end than the 251C and more proximity effect, and it's a very BIG sound overall... just another super-high-quality, low-noise tube mic.

Here's a multi-pattern version on e-bay now... only one bid - weird... maybe your friend can snag it!

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#### B.L.U.E. Kiwi:

Easily one of the best mics you can buy for under \$2k new. Right now you can get one with a free "Robbie" tube Preamp thrown in (never used one of those pre's so I dunno how they sound). The sound to me is very reminiscent of a mix between a -67 the -149... best way I can describe it. It's not a tube mic, though; just tonally, to me, it sounds kind of like a blend of those two mics' characteristics - best way I can describe it, anyway... warm bottom end, but not wooly or fuzzy, and open top end, but not hyped, either, and very clean there, too.

#### B.L.U.E. Cactus:

I have a Cactus capsule in my M149 (the original worked fine, but really was poorly-maintained & had some of the sputtering coming off), and I can only assume that the Cactus with it's

electronics would at least sound somewhat reasonably close to my -149, since the capsule is the main voice of the mic anyway. The guys at B.L.U.E. told me that the Cactus Capsule would be the closest to the M149's stock one and honestly I think they were right-on, because I don't hear much difference, if any, except for better articulation now. You can get the Cactus for about \$2500 new.

B.L.U.E. Blueberry:

If it's the high end of that modded -67 your friend liked (again, assuming it was the common S.P. mod), maybe try a Blueberry! A grand new, and \$600-\$800 used.

Regular ol' U87 (new or used):

New they're \$2800-ish... used you can sometimes snag 'em for as low as \$1300 - still a good mic that never totally sucks on anything.

There's a few anyway.

Neil

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Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 02:32:03 GMT

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Awesome, thanks Neil! I'll pass your advice along. They need to jump quickly so this is really helpful!

Cheers,

-Jamie

[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

Neil wrote:

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> Neil

---

Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 03:51:13 GMT  
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Thought of 4 more possibilities:

Neumann M-147:  
This mic gets a bad rap, IMO, from a lot of "big-time"

engineers; I think they're comparing it to a vintage -47 or something... well, it's not a vintage -47, it's a ONEfourtyseven, and it's a different mic. Anyway, you can find these used for \$1200 to \$2000 - it's a very smooth mic as long as you don't try to drive it hard where the high end doesn't come across so well. Use it with a good quality pre and you'll like it, use it with something dirty & lo-end & you'll hate it. I had one, but it honestly sounded too close (not exactly, but really, pretty darn close) to my E47C to keep both, so I did a partial trade/cash deal with someone on this NG for their...

#### RODE K2:

Just starting to play with this mic & I gotta say I really am starting to like it... it sounds VERY reminiscent of my E251C, but perhaps with a little less high end - a bit more "rounder" tone, but still has some decent highs there. Nice proximity effect if you want it, but really also works well if you back off a bit - smoe mics tend to like one or the other, this one seems to be able to work well either way. They're like \$699 new & \$400 to \$500 used, that I've seen anyway. I have a feeling this mic would work well with both male & female vox, but have only had a chance to try it on my own voice so far, so that's just a "hunch".

#### B.L.U.E. Babybottlebluebird:

No, this is not one mic, it's two... someone else here (Dave, or Gene, I think) said that the Bluebird is great on female vocals - I have a pair, but haven't tried 'em on female vox yet, but I can see how they'd say that - to me they sound like a 414 with less "hard" midrange presence & actually a tad more warmth. The Baby Bottle absolutely fucking rocks on male vocals, and I can personally attest that on one occasion I've auditioned it up against as many as 4 mics that cost as much as (literally) more than ten times it's price for that application & it's won. Doesn't mean it's going to be the best for every male voice app, but that still says a lot, I think. Point is: If you've got both a male & a female voice to please, why settle for just one mic for recording them if you don't necessarily have to? BabyBottleBluebirdBothBrandnew... \$1,100 total.

Something to think about.

OK, now I'm done.  
:)

Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

>

>Awesome, thanks Neil! I'll pass your advice along. They need to jump  
>quickly so this is really helpful!

>

>Cheers,

> -Jamie

> www.JamieKruz.com

>

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>Neil wrote:

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Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 14:08:29 GMT  
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Jamie,

I bought what is basically a Mojave MA-200 and a Baby Bottle from Neil. I don't have the same range of experience that Neil does with high end mics (One doesn't need much to get a Prophet 10 into a DAW) but I can back up his description on those two mics. The MA style mic is tubey and round sounding without being fuzzy and the Baby Bottle is the best effin male vocal mic I've ever been around. I really don't know why Neil sold it. The band I'm in has three male vocalists. We initially were planning on using the MA for the lead vox and the Baby Bottle for the backing vox but might use just the BB for everything. It's also not a one trick pony, it's great anywhere you want something that sounds solid state (in a good, fast way) and bright but not hyped.

TCB

Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

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>Awesome, thanks Neil! I'll pass your advice along. They need to jump  
>quickly so this is really helpful!

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>Cheers,  
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Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Nil](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 14:58:46 GMT

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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>

>Jamie,

>

>The MA style mic is tubey and round sounding without being

>fuzzy

The prototype/kit one you have is actually a bit cleaner (IMO) anyway) than the production model MA-200... also the -200 is just a teensy bit "scooped" - those two mics are indeed very close in sound, though.

>and the Baby Bottle is the best effin male vocal mic

>I've ever been around. I really don't know why Neil sold it.

Because I had two, remember? I've never found an occasion to use them as a stereo pair, and so I figured I could let one go...

I'm keeping the other one.

Neil

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Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 15:15:54 GMT

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"Neil" <IUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

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>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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>them as a stereo pair, and so I figured I could let one go...  
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>Neil

Ah, that's right. Just for kicks I put it above a drum kit and didn't like it at all, so I agree, I can't think of a place where I'd want two.

You should get a thank you on the Monkees album.

TCB

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Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Graham Duncan](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 15:59:07 GMT  
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They might want to demo mics by Peluso, the cheaper new Telefunken, and possibly Microtech Gefell. Maybe talk to <http://atlasproaudio.com/> or Mercenary to see what they'd suggest? I really recommend trying before buying.

Regards,

Graham

Jamie K wrote:

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Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 16:08:59 GMT  
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I've got two of those Claytorbuilt MA's here. One of them has a gold plated grille. the other has a black painted grille. The guts are identical. the tonality is not. The one with the gold plated grille is a bit more forward sounding in the mids. The one with the black grille sounds a little \*softer\*.

It's amazing what a little paint can do.

;o)

"Neil" <IUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:4628d526\$1@linux...

>

> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>>

>>Jamie,

>>

>>The MA style mic is tubey and round sounding without being

>>fuzzy

>

> The prototype/kit one you have is actually a bit cleaner (IMO)

> anyway) than the production model MA-200... also the -200 is

> just a teensy bit "scooped" - those two mics are indeed very

> close in sound, though.

>

>

>>and the Baby Bottle is the best effin male vocal mic

>>I've ever been around. I really don't know why Neil sold it.

>

> Because I had two, remember? I've never found an occasion to use

> them as a stereo pair, and so I figured I could let one go...

> I'm keeping the other one.

>

> Neil

---

Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 16:13:13 GMT

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Whenever I drop by Gearslutz, I see all kinds of raving going on about the Peluso mics. My kit built MA-200's have Peluso cardioid capsules in them. I like them, but I've never tried comparing the exact same mic with the Marshall capsule, then swapping out the capsule for the Peluso capsule and trying that.....though I guess I should, just so I can pretend to be some sort of authority on the differences in Chinese cardioid capsules.

;o)

"Graham Duncan" <graham@grahamduncan.com> wrote in message  
news:4628e362\$1@linux...

> They might want to demo mics by Peluso, the cheaper new Telefunken, and  
> possibly Microtech Gefell. Maybe talk to <http://atlasproaudio.com/> or  
> Mercenary to see what they'd suggest? I really recommend trying before  
> buying.

>  
> Regards,

>  
> Graham

>  
> Jamie K wrote:

>>  
>> A friend is asking me about the Neumann UM57. They've used a modded U67  
>> which they like a lot but it's out of the price range.

>>  
>> If you were buying a mic for female and male vocals in a funk band, would  
>> you select the UM57?

>>  
>> What else would you consider (from any manufacturer, at the price of a  
>> UM57 or lower)?

>>  
>> Cheers,

>> -Jamie  
>> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

---

Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Dimitrios](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 16:25:37 GMT

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Hi,  
I tried the peluso capsules and they do not differ from the chinese...  
If that helps...  
Regards,  
Dimitrios

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote:

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>Peluso mics. My kit built MA-200's have Peluso cardioid capsules in them.

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>

>;o)

>

>

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>>

>> Graham

>>

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>>> -Jamie

>>> [www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

>

>

---

Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 16:37:21 GMT

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They *are* Chinese capsules, for sure. They're just different Chinese



capsules and since they have the Peluso stamp of approval, they are bound to be superior to a Gefell M7, right?. Now my mics are worth \$2000.00 each.....

I accept PayPal.

;oD

"Dimitrios" <musurgio@otenet.gr> wrote in message news:4628e981\$1@linux...

>

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>>;o)

>>

>>

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---

Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Graham Duncan](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2007 19:15:16 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Heh, screw it. Buy the Gefells and don't bother wondering if your cheaper stuff is almost as good. How's that? ;)

Graham

---

Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Dimitrios](#) on Sat, 21 Apr 2007 08:59:32 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

He it is funny how many times what you declare is what you are !  
There is so much literature on interenet as how good peluso capsules sound as aopposed to the chines ones...etc..  
I tried the best they make and the more expensive one on a Neumann M149 taking out the neumann capsule to hear how it sounds.  
Man the sound was so bad !  
Thin distorted on highs no low mids at all...  
Thats why my microphones will have the M7 capsule from Neumann...  
Regards,  
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>;oD  
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>

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Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Sat, 21 Apr 2007 14:14:51 GMT  
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FWIW, I have a Peluso CK-67 capsule... I've had it in two mics; an M147, and my -149, and it sounded fine. Nothing like the stock capsules that were in there (and that was the point of me trying it), but nothing like what you're describing, either... in both cases it gave the mic a very open sound, a little bit of "scoop", and some decent, but not overly noticeable warmth. It sounded better in the -149 than it did the -147, but then the electronics in each mic are very different from one

another, but in the case of the -147 it turned the mic into a whole 'nother animal... no longer smooth & on the darkish side, but wide open & articulate.

I have heard that there has been consistency issues with Peluso capsules, so maybe you got a crap one. Someone else here (can't recall who) got two of the same kind from Peluso for a pair of mics they had and I remember them posting that one sounded great, the other was crap.

Neil

"Dimitrios" <musurgio@otenet.gr> wrote:

>

>He it is funny how many times what you declare is what you are !

>There is so much literature on interenet as how good peluso capsules sound

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>I tried the best they make and the more expensive one on a Neumann M149 taking

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>>;oD

>>

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>>>>> www.JamieKruz.com  
>>>>  
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>>  
>

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Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Gary Flanigan](#) on Sat, 21 Apr 2007 16:05:30 GMT  
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"Dimitrios" <musurgio@otenet.gr> wrote:  
>  
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>Thats why my microphones will have the M7 capsule from Neumann...  
>Regards,  
>Dimitrios  
>  
Neumann doesn't make an M& capsule anymore. Gefell does.

---

---

Subject: Re: Mic question  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sat, 21 Apr 2007 16:08:19 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Thanks again Neil, TCB, DJ, Dimitrios, and Graham! I've passed along  
your insights!

Cheers,  
-Jamie

Graham Duncan wrote:

> Heh, screw it. Buy the Gefells and don't bother wondering if your  
> cheaper stuff is almost as good. How's that? ;)  
>  
> Graham

---

---

Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Dimitrios](#) on Sat, 21 Apr 2007 16:43:07 GMT

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Regarding M7,  
I can find M7 capsules though from Neumann ...

Regarding Peluso well maybe the one I tried was one from the crap one...  
I bought three of them and then sold them right away...

Regards,  
Dimitrios

"Gary Flanigan" <gary\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov> wrote:

>  
>"Dimitrios" <musurgio@otenet.gr> wrote:  
>>  
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---

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Subject: Re: Mic question

Posted by [Miguel Vigil \[1\]](#) on Sun, 22 Apr 2007 14:57:08 GMT

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You had tried the KSM models on another female vocal.



They have the KSM 44 too.

Regards,

El Miguel

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:462a37b8@linux...

>

> Thanks again Neil, TCB, DJ, Dimitrios, and Graham! I've passed along your  
> insights!

>

> Cheers,

> -Jamie

> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

>

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---