

# Mogan Elite Omni Earset Microphone

by *Holland Davis*



**T**he Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing, and that means you need to have a microphone that is clear, comfortable and natural sounding.

Some of the ongoing problems I've experienced with subminiature headset microphones is the thinness of the sound or the presence of a "lisp." And... no, I don't have a lisp.

For me the best way to determine if a microphone lives up to the demands of the average preacher is not to read tech manuals, spec sheets or brand advertisements. The best way to test a microphone is to put it to the test, as in listen to the quality of a microphone in a live preaching or live worship application.

So, we set up a test scenario. I switched out my normal microphone element for the Mogan Elite Omni Earset Microphone. The immediate unsolicited response was... wow, the mic sounds great. Big, full, natural—and it eliminated one of the biggest complaints I've had with headset microphones—the dreaded lisp.

That's not the biggest shock though. The biggest shock is the name of the company that is shipping the Mogan Elite Omni Earset Microphone. No, Mogan is not a division of Shure, Audio Technica or a new line from Sennheiser. It's from the company that's known mostly for cables: Hosa. You heard right and let me tell you that the company that is the leading innovator of analog and digital connectivity is now the provider of one of the best sounding earset microphones on the market. For those who are unfamiliar with Mogan Microphones, this division of Hosa Technology specializes in subminiature microphones for the music, theatrical, broadcast, House of Worship and presentation markets.

Jonathan Pusey, Hosa Technology's Vice President of Sales and Marketing, commented on the new Mogan

Elite Omni Earset Microphone. "The Mogan Elite earset microphone delivers impressive performance," says Pusey, "Enabling this microphone to be right at home in a number of high-end applications, including broadcast and theater, in which audio performance is critical. In addition to world-class audio quality, the Elite earset mic is very comfortable to wear and may be worn without distraction for hours on end. The earpiece is highly adjustable and the boom mechanism facilitates precise positioning of the microphone's capsule."

The heart of the Mogan Elite is its subminiature microphone that features a 2.5 mm Omni-directional capsule with -45dB nominal sensitivity that is designed to be positioned near the corner of one's mouth. This placement enables presenters to achieve good audio levels and deliver natural, resonant sound. It also features an interchangeable cable system that enables one to connect the microphone to most popular wireless transmitters, including models from Shure, AKG, Sennheiser and Audio Technica. The cable attaches easily to the earset piece and connects to whatever wireless device you prefer via Kevlar-reinforced cable with a hardwired connector. I found this feature to be extremely attractive, especially if you travel and prefer to bring your own microphone along.

The Mogan Elite Omni Earset Microphone is designed to deliver a full frequency audio performance (20 Hz – 20kHz) that is comparable with the Shure MX153T/O-TQG subminiature earset microphone. Utilizing cutting-edge capsule designs, the Mogan Elite can handle significantly higher SPLs before distorting, which means higher gain before feedback. The capsule is also designed for detailed speech intelligibility and a wide dynamic range that is essential for music performance. All in all, I was pleasantly surprised at how well this microphone performed both in a vocal performance and spoken word application. Because we are a church plant, we needed a microphone that had

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the ability to offer both solutions, as I often do double duty as both preacher and worship leader.

Having said that, there was one small thing that I would change and that's the actual ear piece. Although the brochure presents that the earpiece enables precise positioning on one's left or right ear for maximum stability and comfort, I personally prefer a complete headset or something that is smaller and easier to form to my ear. I felt that the size of the earpiece itself was a little bulky for my particular anatomy. Others tried it and loved it, but for me personally it was an issue. Visually, the earpiece isn't noticeable from the front view, but is noticeable from the side view. For most applications this doesn't matter, but it could be a consideration for some.

The Mogan Elite Omni Earset microphone is available in beige or black and can also include a foam windscreen and a single mic clip. I tested it with and without the windscreen and preferred using it without. The microphone boom placed the mic element perfectly so that I didn't experience any breath or pop noises associated with air movement from speaking or singing.

The entire microphone set comes conveniently packaged in a zippered case that makes it easy to store. I think it's also important to note that the Mogan Omni Earset Microphone comes in a Standard grade in addition to the Elite

grade. The Standard grade is 50% less (\$200 MSRP) than the Elite grade (\$400 MSRP). Although I didn't review the Standard grade microphone, it appears that the difference is that the Elite grade delivers a noticeably superior vocal reproduction, more gain before feedback, greater signal to noise ratio (66 dB versus 54 dB) and higher output impedance. For those on budgets, the Standard grade offers a great sounding subminiature microphone that delivers exceptional performance and unbeatable value.

So... the bottom line. Is it worth the price? In my book, yes. Why? Because in this age of podcasts, vodcasts, mp3 recordings and sermon postings online you can't afford to put out a product that doesn't support your message with the clarity that it deserves. After all, faith comes by hearing and if you can't be understood because of the quality of the recording, then the results can have eternal consequences. ◆

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