The Perfect Traveler and Contest Headset

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR
Criteria: Travel + Contests

• Tolerable on my head
• Noise canceling
  (less fatigue on long plane rides)
• Travel (6Y1V, 4X0W, KH7X, KM1W, K1LZ)
  - folding + travel case a nice feature
• Plug into computer (Skype)
• Plug into cell phone (business calls)
• Plug into transceiver in place (bias)
• Decent contest audio
• Won’t break easily
• Affordable
Heil ProSet

- Very popular
- Little ANR
- No NC
- HC-4
- $155

Definitions
ANR= Acoustic Noise Reduction or Noise Isolation, also passive noise reduction
NC = Noise Canceling or Active Noise Cancellation
Heil Pro-7

- ANR (spec: 26 dB); not NC
- Phase reversal switch
- 17 oz.
- Clamp on feeling?
- Awkward on plane
- HC-4
- $276
Pilot USA PA-1200

- ANR (spec 24 dB); not NC
- 32 ohm speakers
- Clamp on feeling?
- Awkward on plane
- 15.4 oz (437 grams)
- $140

Other models: http://pilot-usa.com/headsets.html
Arlan Communications
RS60CF + RS20

- ANR (spec: 24 dB); not NC
- Comfy; great reviews
- Excellent for multi-op phone if next to a screamer
- “D/C knock-off”
- Options
- Awkward on planes
- Dynamic or electret
- $289

“Gamer” headset?
All plastic
Little ANR; No NC
Includes battery box
$60

http://w2eny.com/headset_premium/
Yamaha CM-500

• Some isolation
• No cancellation
• W/ battery box
• Widely used
• Many happy users
• Mike requires equalization; has a lot of bass
• Cloth earpiece covers for the Heil ProSet fit the CM-500 perfectly
• Does not fold; Awkward on a plane
• $50-60
Why Do I Like Noise Canceling?

• Allows lower audio volume
• Eliminates potential hearing damage
• Reduces fatigue on plane, in contests
• Will not help next to Pier Luigi, W1NA
  (Solution: Separate room, or ANR 24-26 dB).
• Disadvantage: needs batteries
Homebrew by K1DG

- Bose QC2 – noise canceling
- Boom mike from Heil BM-10
- Buy several clips. They break.
Homebrew by K1DG

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Homebrew by K1EP

- Bose QC2 or QC15 – noise canceling
- Boom mike from Heil ProSet
- N1EU: “So much mass is attached to so little plastic”
More Homebrew

- Passive acoustic isolation
- No NC
- Sale at Harbor Freight $10.99
- Needs somebody’s mike (homebrew or ModMic)
- Add earbuds for $5-20, or $1,000 (rock star molded; K3NA solution)
Direct Sound
Extreme Isolation EX-29 Earphones

• Rave reviews from
  K1CC + EI1Y crew
• ANR (Spec: -29 DB); not NC
• Fold for travel
• Walmart or eBay
• $129.95 + $7 ship
• Needs somebody’s mike (homebrew or ModMic)

Pro: Dave Clark

- Isolation, not cancellation
- Not travel friendly
- Don’t fold
- Mike not removable
- K1WHS: H10-13S (Stereo)
- $175? Used on eBay
Bose QC 15
No longer sold new – see QC 25

• Noise canceling
• Soft cushions; comfy on plane
• Travel Bag
• $300 (+ $30 for cell phone adapter kit below, but kit no longer available new)
• No mike
Bose QC 25

- Noise canceling
- iPhone/iPad or Android controls + microphone
- Bypass (if battery dead)
- Colors
- Soft cushions
- Travel Bag
- $300
Bose QC 25

- Folds smaller for travel than QC-15s
- Case contains holder for spare battery
- Single AAA battery = 35 hours

UFlyMike
for Bose QC 15 or QC 25

• KM3T: likes it
• W1FV: RFI problems, flat audio, prefers Heil HC4
• $224 (+300 for the QC 25)
The ModMic

- “Keep your headphones, add a ModMic”
- Mounts with removable sticky magnet
- Separates easily
- Travel Bag
- Needs bias box for direct use
- $43 (+ $5 shipping)
In Ear + NC? Bose QC 20

- Where mount mike?
- Android or Apple versions
- Rechargeable battery – 16 hours
- $300
K1VR Solution for Hamming + Business Travel

• Bose QC 25 $300
• ModMic 48
• Bias box, if necessary 40
• Bag of jumpers (for cell phones) 30
• Bag of batteries

(For long life, W1RM likes Panasonic Eneloop 10 Pro. He says they will easily last a contest and more.)

Total $428

Exception: For multi-op phone contests where another op shouts, Extreme Isolation EX-29 headphones ($137) with ModMic (using second sticky magnet, same ModMic on both headsets)
Topics

• Why MOAS?
• MOAS II – What it is, What it does
• System Architecture – What it Looks Like
• Software
• Configurability & Setup
• Operator’s Perspective
• Conclusions – Why YOU should use it!