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# MIC POSITIONING

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## What factors determine good sound quality?

- Mic used
- Mic position - it doesn't matter how good the mic is if it's positioned badly
- Number of mics
- Acoustics of the room
- Presenters position in the room and in relation to mic
- Presenters presentation technique i.e: quiet, loud, whistling etc.

So - is there a set way to position a mic? **No** - Mic positioning is an acquired skill as you bear in mind the above factors and juggle with them to achieve the correct sound, and eliminate as far as possible unwanted sounds.

What works with one presenter won't necessarily work with another. Therefore you must take the time to get a good sound - don't just leave the mic in what looks like a good position and think that'll do.

## What is a good mic position?

It will of course depend on the mic but generally for the work we do we want a clear but warm sound

A good distance is between 17-25 cm or 7 to 10 inches. The distance will vary from presenter to presenter.

- If too far away may get 'echo' or 'boom'
- If too close may get unwanted noises of presenter i.e.: lip noises, tummy rumbling
- If too close to hard surfaces such as windows or bare walls may get a harsh reverberant sound

Usually the best place to put the mic is above and to one side of the presenter's head - in line with their shoulder and directed at their mouth.

Setting the mic up for one person is not too difficult. Often the problems arise when we have two people in the studio on separate mics.

## What problems can we face?

- Presenters can sound as if they are in two separate settings
- The levels between presenters can vary and cause imbalance
- One presenter could sound closer to the mic than the other
- May pick up unwanted sounds i.e: the other presenter!
- The tonal quality of the presenters may vary but this shouldn't happen if you're using the same type of mic for both presenters

## How do we solve the problems?

**Mic positioning and operators skill!**