

The Stagehand's Audio Handbook

Chapter Three

The International Alliance of
Theatrical Stage Employees

Local 17



Jeff Downey
Copyright: 2002

Section Three

Microphone Stands

Microphone stands come from a variety of manufacturers. However we can break them down into a few simple categories. We will start with the straight stand.

The straight stand is the most basic type of microphone stand. It may have either a round weighted base or tripod legs. This is the stand most commonly found with vocalists who do not play an instrument.

The straight rod part of the stand screws into a heavy cast base, which sets on the floor.

~

Straight Stand Round Base



If you have an individual who plays an instrument you may need to use a boom arm extension. The boom extension screws onto the top of the stand and can extend out. This is to allow the musician, such as a guitarist, to play their instrument but still have the microphone close to their mouth.

The boom arm extension is often found useful around the percussion section. It allows the microphone to be placed closer to the snare or rack toms than would be possible with just a straight stand.

~

Boom Arm Extension



The next stand we will look at is the tripod stand with a boom arm extension attached.

Tripod Stand with Boom Arm Extension (Baby Stand)



The last stand type we will look at is the Desktop or Table Top Stand. This stand is used as the name suggests, putting the microphone on a table or desktop. It is also useful in any application where the microphone must be placed at a very low height. These uses include the guitar or bass speaker cabinet and the kick drum. If used for the kick drum the stand would have a boom arm attached to it.

~

Desktop or Table Top Stand



The next items we will discuss fall into the microphone accessory category. First we will look at the Percussion Claw. The percussion claw can be used to mount the microphone onto the tom toms, floor toms, congas, snare and many other applications. It is used whenever it is not possible to use a stand.

~

Percussion Claw



The last stand item that we will look at is the gooseneck. It is shown below with a small base that it screws into. It can also screw onto the end of a stand or boom arm. It is also useful for getting into hard places.

~

Gooseneck



Microphone Clips or Mounts

Microphone clips or mounts are used to secure the microphone to the stand, percussion claw or gooseneck. We will discuss three types of clips.

1. Standard mic clip
2. Quick lock mic clip
3. Shock mount mic clip

Many microphones come with their own mic clip. Most likely this clip will be the standard mic clip. This clip screws directly onto the stand, percussion claw or gooseneck and holds the microphone.

As a note do not force the microphone too far down into the clip. They have been known to break quite easily.

~

Standard Microphone Clip



The next most popular type of clip is the quick clip. The quick clip has two parts. The male part which screws onto the microphone stand and the female part which screws into the standard microphone clip. It has a button on the side that releases the two parts.

~

Quick Lock On Microphone Clip



The last type of microphone holder is the shock mount microphone holder. This type of microphone holder is usually found associated with higher quality microphones. It is used in a situation when unwanted vibrations need to be reduced. This produces higher signal clarity.

~

Shock Mount Microphone Holder

