

HHB DRM85 Flash Mic Review

Every now and then you run into something that makes you think, wow what a cool product. That's what happened with me and the HHB Flash Microphone. Because my work involves so much travel on the road, there have been several times while working some shows where the need would arise for the ability to record a simple voice over...or possibly interview. In the past this would require some kind of audio USB type interface, recording software, and a notebook computer with available hard drive space. But what if you could record an audio file to a RAM memory chip built right into the handheld mic? INTRODUCING the HHB DRM 85 Flash Microphone. It's a handheld microphone with a high quality Sennhiser omni-directional capsule, and internal 1 gig RAM flash memory chip. Talk about simplicity!! This is it. NO more finding ac outlets to plug in, or USB interfaces with cables to hookup, NOT even a mic stand is needed. This unit is totally portable, and self contained. With 2 simple buttons, you can begin to record instantly....from the mic itself. It has a built in headphone amp with a mini 1/8 inch stereo jack on the bottom of the mic, so plugging in your favorite ear buds is a snap....and makes it very easy to monitor the recording. There are several other unique features worth mentioning here. You have the choice of using a preset Automatic Gain Control feature (AGC) or manual input gain adjustment. I found in testing the mic, that in noisy environments, I preferred using the manual adjustment, which helped keep some of the background noise and interference to a minimum. In a quiet environment though, I would have no problem with the AGC feature. There are several formats to record to. They are: un-compressed broadcast wave, and various bit rate MPEG formats. There is a mini USB connection (with supplied cable) to download stored files into any editing software program on your notebook computer. The flash mic runs on 2 double AA batteries....and has a 4 segment battery status indicator. Whenever the mic is powered up, there is a 10 second buffer that is constantly gathering audio. This is a very unique feature. It allows for you to press the record button, and not miss the first 10 seconds prior to when you pressed the start button. You can also apply unique names to each Flash microphone. This is very helpful if you were say a broadcast facility and have multiple of these units in the field. You can track the audio files unique to each mic and or reporter. And with Broadcast wave time stamping, it allows for easy re-sync to video later in post editing. Where could such a mic be used?? As mentioned, perfect for radio interviews, on site interviews, and pod casting. One great idea, and one truly simple and fantastic recording device. I was totally impressed with this. The recordings sound fantastic, and this could not be any easier to use.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Sampling Frequency	48Khz, 44.1Khz, and 32Khz.
Bit Resolution	16 bit linear
Bit Rates	192, 160, 128 kbps
Audio Formats	Linear PCM or Mpeg 1 layer 2.
Number of Channels	MONO
Microphone Capsule	Omni-directional

Record Level	Automatic (AGC) or manual gain control
High Pass Filter	Switchable on/off, 12db/octave @ 100 hz
Data Storage System	Fixed internal memory, 1 GB capacity
File Format	Linear PCM: .wav, Broadcast wave file (.wav). Or Compressed MPEG 1 layer 2 .wav Date/Time stamp is stored in the file header. File name Generated automatically.
File System	FAT 32. Mounts as a re-moveable drive via USB mass storage device protocol. File transfer is possible with Flash Mic Manager software, or though Windows explorer Or Mac OS Finder.
Headphone output	3.5mm stereo jack (mono signal). Manual Volume control By rotary switch. Output may be used for analog audio re- cording. Drive capability for 32 ohm headsets with short Circuit protection.
Capsule frequency response	Relatively flat from 200 hz to 1Khz, with 10db presence Bump centered @ 5Khz 1.5 octave wide. Overall microphone response is from 100hz to 20kHz.

RECORD TIMES

File Type	Sample Rate	Max Record Time
BWF files (un compressed)	48Khz	3 hours
BWF Files (un compressed)	44.1Khz	3 hours, 15 min
BWF Files (un compressed)	32Khz	4 hours, 30 min
MPEG1 (layer 2 Files)	48Khz	12 hours, 15 min
MPEG1 (layer 2 Files)	44.1Khz	14 hours, 40 min
MPEG1 (layer 2 Files)	32Khz	18 hours, 25 min