
Choosing microphones for beatboxing

Choosing an adequate microphone for beatboxing can be an arduous task and one that could prove costly if you have a large class. Nevertheless, there are many good-quality microphones available that suit a range of classroom budgets and, in some instances, will allow each student to beatbox with a microphone.

In order for you to demonstrate at the front of the classroom, the minimum requirement is a microphone with a combi amplifier. To enable students to practise in small groups in corridors or practice rooms, it may also be beneficial to invest in a selection of microphones and small practice amps. Alternatively, if you have a PA system available in the classroom, you can demonstrate tasks and simultaneously enable students to plug in eight or 12 microphones, plus a CD or MP3 source, depending upon the number of inputs available on the mixer. This is preferable to using separate amps, although a combination of the above equipment might be necessary to best accommodate the scheme's requirements.

You can spend anything from £6 to upwards of £120 per microphone. For the purposes of this scheme, it is not necessary to have top-of-the-range equipment – here are three worthwhile and affordable options for a KS3 classroom:

- Shure PG58 (around £32) – a good, robust microphone that produces great sound quality
- Behringer XM8500 (around £19) – rated by beatboxers as a real surprise in the market, as it is a good all-round microphone that provides excellent value for money
- Soundlab MR119338 (around £12.95 for a pack of five) – a very attractive option, as at this price, even though every student cannot simultaneously be plugged in to the PA, each student could have a microphone of their own with which to practise.