Eargle's The Microphone Book: From Mono to Stereo to Surround - A Guide to Microphone Design and Application (Audio Engineering Society Presents)

By Ray A. Rayburn

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Eargle's Microphone Book is the only guide you will ever need for the latest in microphone technology, application and technique. This new edition features more on microphone arrays and wireless microphones, new material on digital models; the latest developments in surround; expanded advice on studio set up, recording and mic selection.

Ray A. Rayburn provides detailed analysis of the different types of microphones available and addresses their application through practical examples of actual recording sessions and studio operations.

The book takes you into the studio or concert hall to see how performers are positioned and how the best microphone array is determined. Problem areas such as reflections, studio leakage and isolation are analyzed from practical viewpoints. Creative solutions to stereo sound staging, perspective, and balance are covered in detail. *Eargle's Microphone Book* is an invaluable resource for learning the 'why' as well as the 'how' of choosing and placing a microphone for any situation.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: A Letter from Ray A. Rayburn, Author of *Eargle's The Microphone Book*

Ray A. Rayburn

Dear Amazon Readers, It would be an understatement to say that I was honored when Focal Press approached me about updating John Eargle's classic The Microphone Book. John was a respected member of the New York section of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) during my early days in the audio industry and I learned much from him at the meetings. He worked for RCA Records in New York as I did some years later. He also helped JVC develop CD4 quadraphonic recording, which I worked on during my time at RCA. We both recorded orchestras and other classic musical groups, although I also recorded artists such as Frank Zappa. The AES honored John with a Fellowship award in 1971, and awarded me a Fellowship in 2009. Like John, I love everything to do with audio, and audio starts with the microphone. I study things I love, and microphones are no exception. I find everything about them interesting--from their history to the technology, to the multitude of ways they can be used. I collect microphones, and even build my own custom microphones. I design sound systems for clients ranging from the U.S. Senate to the local church, all of which require microphones. All of this passion and experience helped shape my perspectives, along with my approach to writing this book. My hope is that this book will introduce readers to the fascinating world of microphones, while providing them a deeper and appreciation and understanding of the critical role they play in shaping our recordings. Whether you're a recording engineer, sound reinforcement engineer, technology geek, microphone collector, sound designer, or just an audio enthusiast, you will find something of interest in The Microphone Book. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed updating John Eargle's timeless masterpiece of microphone technology, application and technique. -Ray A. Rayburn

Take a Look Inside *Eargle's The Microphone Book* [Click on Images to Enlarge]

The **Superlux R102** is an example of a modern, inexpensive ribbon microphone with sound similar to some of the "classic" ribbon microphones of the 1930s through 1970s. It's also an active ribbon with output levels similar to a condenser microphone.

This cutaway view of a **Neumann SM-69 stereo microphone** reveals its pair of large diaphragm condenser capsules. So-called "all-in-one" stereo microphones like this make stereo recording very easy since only one microphone needs to be placed instead of two.

The **Core Tetramic** is an extremely small surround microphone (note the quarter next to the microphone). Its software makes it possible to use its four-channel recording to produce full surround recordings.

Sound reinforcement systems today have largely replaced the lapel, or lavalier, microphone with earset microphones like the **Countryman E6 earset microphone** seen here. The E6 and all the similar microphones that came after it have greatly improved the sound quality of many sound reinforcement systems.

This classic **Altec 639** combined ribbon and dynamic microphone elements. By selectively blending the sounds from the two elements, six different directional patterns and six different sound qualities could be obtained.

Review
"...this is a very interesting book which is well written and copiously illustrated with both graphs and pictures throughout. For anyone involved in using, specifying or manufacturing microphones this will prove an invaluable read." - Lighting and Sound International

"Besides being a "must-have" reference source for recording engineers, producers or anybody who desires to better understand and utilize mics, The Microphone Book is an engaging read from its first chapter on microphone history to the 21st chapter and Eargle's unique take on classic microphones and their influence on the art and science of recording...The Microphone Book is unique in its balance of broad and meticulously detailed practical information." - Music Connection magazine

Reviews for the previous edition:
"John has brought his successful experience in classical and other music recording to the book's many pages, and one can find the best microphone arrangements for nearly every conceivable situation and guides to proceed for the more unusual ones." - The American Organist

"John Eargle has prepared another useful book for audio system contractors, engineers, designers and enthusiasts."
Sound & Communications magazine

"Highly recommended for everyone who wants to know more. Read it."
Amazon.com customer review

"The Microphone Book will save you time and money, even if you only ever buy one microphone to use in a home studio. If you do live sound, record on location, or are kitting out a slightly more ambitious project studio, then this book will be invaluable. It takes you far further than the 'microphone' sections of general guides to studio recording."
Amazon.co.uk customer review

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dan Villanueva:

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