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A USB Microphone with Studio-Quality Specs

By Eliot Van Buskirk January 24, 2008 | 2:08:30 PM Categories: Gear

Marshall Electronics unveiled "the world's first USB 24-bit/96 kHz studio microphone," the MXL USB.009. This mic offers an easy way for home recording enthusiasts, podcast producers, and anyone else who needs to capture high-quality audio onto a computer to do so at 24-bit resolution, as opposed to 16-bit.



USB microphones are great; I use an inexpensive Logitech model to record speakerphone interviews, because it's so easy to connect, and Audacity records from it reliably thanks to the overall stability of USB audio.

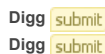
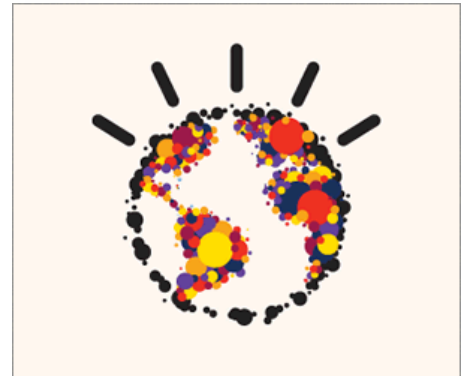
But until now, I hadn't heard of a USB mic designed with high performance in mind, with the increased detail and dynamic range of 24-bit recording. (Even though music almost always gets mixed down to 16-bit resolution for CD and MP3 listening, it sounds better if recorded and mixed at a higher resolution and then mastered down to 16-bit.)

The Marshall Electronics MXL USB.009 (\$400), aside from apparently being the first microphone to record at 24-bit/96 kHz for a dynamic range of 114 dB (meaning more increments between the softest and loudest sounds in the recording), has some other things going for it:

- large gold diaphragm cardioid condenser microphone
- 32 mm pressure gradient condenser capsule with a gold sputtered diaphragm
- 24-bit A/D and D/A converters
- low noise analog front end with front panel gain for setting levels
- 1/8th inch headphone jack for monitoring your recording with zero latency
- a control that lets you set the mix between playback and recording for comfortable monitoring of multitrack recordings
- desktop stand, mounting clip, flight case, and cleaning cloth

(via [iqu](#))

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