

The Anniston Star

MXL Tempo by MXL Microphones; \$79.95

One quick look at the MXL Tempo microphone is all it takes to see the quality put into the product. The sleek, professional design gives an appearance of a high-end television talk show mic. Now you can look like Larry King while talking to your grandma online!

Audio quality is among the best I've ever heard in a USB microphone. Everything sounds so crisp and detailed. There are bumps, of course, but that is to be expected from any audio/visual product these days.

The Tempo installs drivers when connected to a computer. Once ready, the user only needs to change the sound settings to use the device as the audio input.

The built-in headphone jack works wonders for recording in loud environments. You'll be able to hear exactly what the mic picked up without the added background noise.

Plugging the attached cable into a USB port is all that is needed to power the Tempo. The lack of a dedicated power supply cord is fantastic and makes transporting the microphone much easier.

Online chatting is very popular these days and the microphone works perfectly in this arena. Those who use a webcam for Skype might prefer to switch the audio function to this device for the added quality. It's also great for podcasts, though they have dramatically faded in popularity over the past couple of years.

Apple's Camera Connection Kit, or any third-party variant, can be used to hook the Tempo to an iPad. The USB cord plugs perfectly into the tablet adapter just like it would on a Mac or PC.

Several accessories are included in the package. The tripod stand is the basic fundamental way to use the microphone. Three adjustable legs give the user freedom to prop the device in the preferred style.

Also in the box is an adapter to hook the Tempo to a regular-sized microphone stand such as the ones you'd see at a concert or comedy club.

The MXL Tempo is a fantastic product for anyone dealing with audio production work. It's my top recommendation for a USB microphone to date.