

## Studio Gear Profile: Neumann U87

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*The Neumann U87 – a microphone first released in 1986.*

It is a work horse. As a really versatile piece of kit, the U87 is a sound industry staple, bringing good quality sound to all manner of situations. As such, it is the industry standard for voiceover microphones.

It will give you a decent sound on anything – whether it's recording a single voice or an entire orchestra. Some mic's can sound cheap and tacky but depth and quality of the U87 is outstanding.

### Reliability

It's reliability is worth mentioning too; even if this was the only mic you had, you'd have a good chance of getting a solid recording. This is down to the U87 having multiple polar pans, which essentially means it can pick up sound from several directions – from the front, sides and all around it.

You can use it to record source sounds so, as a sound designer, you could use it to record sound effects and then manipulate those sounds – the advantage being that you are going to get a clean recording with the mic. For musicians, its versatility shines, working well across both voice and instrument.

### Cheap Copies

There are mic's that try to emulate the Neumann U87 but they're never quite the U87. One of them is the Warm Audio U87 – I do not know exactly what it sounds like, although I have heard good things. The imitations tend to be cheaply produced using inferior parts or reverse engineering. The Neumann U87 costs around £2,000 so it is an investment, but one I think is well worth it. I would love to hear both at the same time though, to have a listen and compare the quality.

At the end of the day, it comes down to the Neumann U87 being reliable, clean and sounding good. In my opinion it is an essential mic for any high-end studio – my desert island mic!

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