

I decided to do some research on Microphone (Mic) technique since many callers ask about how to use their microphone while performing. I notice in my own performance that I tend to keep the mic closer to my mouth while I am talking but not so much when I am singing. The research I have found has cemented what many of us do in controlling our vocals with the use of microphones.

### **How to sing into a microphone**

The first step of mic technique is to determine where to put your mouth. We know that we must sing into the mic and not across the top of the mic. The distance between the mic and your mouth can have an effect on the sound coming out through the mic. Understanding vocal dynamics can help you find out how far you should put the microphone away from your mouth. If you are a powerful singer you will most likely keep the microphone away from your mouth by pulling the microphone away from your mouth. If you are a quiet singer then you need to have the microphone closer to your mouth.

### **How far away should you hold a microphone away from your mouth?**

Research suggests you hold your microphone about 1 to 2 inches from your mouth. You should hold the microphone further away about 3 inches when singing higher notes or more powerful notes. This distance when singing higher notes could be more but you will hear the fading of sound if it is too far away.

Singers may put their mouth right onto the microphone often known as eating the microphone. Notice this style the singer always keep a consistent distance between their mouth and microphone. Usually this is what energetic singers do as they perform.

### **Get comfortable with the microphone**

When first using a microphone practice holding a microphone and get comfortable with the feel of the microphone. The microphone must become a part of you. If you do not have a microphone use a prop like hair brush or a bottle so you get use to the feel so you can make the microphone an extension of you.

### **Sing into the microphone**

This is one of the simplest techniques but one that can be overlooked. Most microphones have a radius around them that will detect noise. Good mic technique is making sure you are hitting this radius with every note you sing. If you sing too far away from the mic you will not allow for the tones, dynamics and power of your vocal to be fully captured. If you are not singing into

the mic the projection of your vocal will be inconsistent and you will lose key elements the the performance of your song.

### **Sing as you would usually**

You may have practiced without amplification and everything sounds perfect but then you pick up a microphone and start singing with completely different power and volume and it does not sound the same as when you practiced without amplification. You may have to adjust your volume levels and make adjustments to get the correct levels of amplification.

### **Avoid microphone feedback**

As you know this screeching sound is like finger nail on a chalkboard. Be aware of where your speakers are located and how close you can actually stand near them, as well as your volume settings on the amplifier.

### **Eliminate vocal distortion**

Distortion occurs for a couple of reasons; one is holding the microphone too close or too far away from your mouth. The distance is essential as it can make your vocals sound muffled or distant. Volume of the microphone can cause distortion and you may have to turn the volume down and you will have to project your voice more.

### **Control your dynamics**

Sometimes a singer faces the problem of balance between the backing track in our case this means our music levels. You want the music to be loud enough for you to hear but also you to hear yourself. You may have to play several songs and sing into the microphone to adjust the levels you have good balance between music and voice.

### **Pull away on high notes**

The pulling away from the microphone on high notes can avoid microphone feedback and distortion due to the power of the vocal to hit the high note. How far away you pull away depends on the volume and power you sing them with. Keeping the mic close to the mouth usually takes place when singing lower notes.