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AUGUST HOW-TO:
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DOUBLE MIC'ING YOUR PASTOR
BREAKING THE BUBBLE WITH ALD
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When it Comes to Mic'ing Your Pastor, Seeing Double is a Good Thing

According to Murphy's Law, "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." This article will address one of the most common culprits with regards to this principle and audio production — the microphone. We'll also outline an effective way to keep this perennial problem from disrupting your service — double mic'ing the pastor.

BY YVONNE HO

WHAT IS DOUBLE MIC'ING?

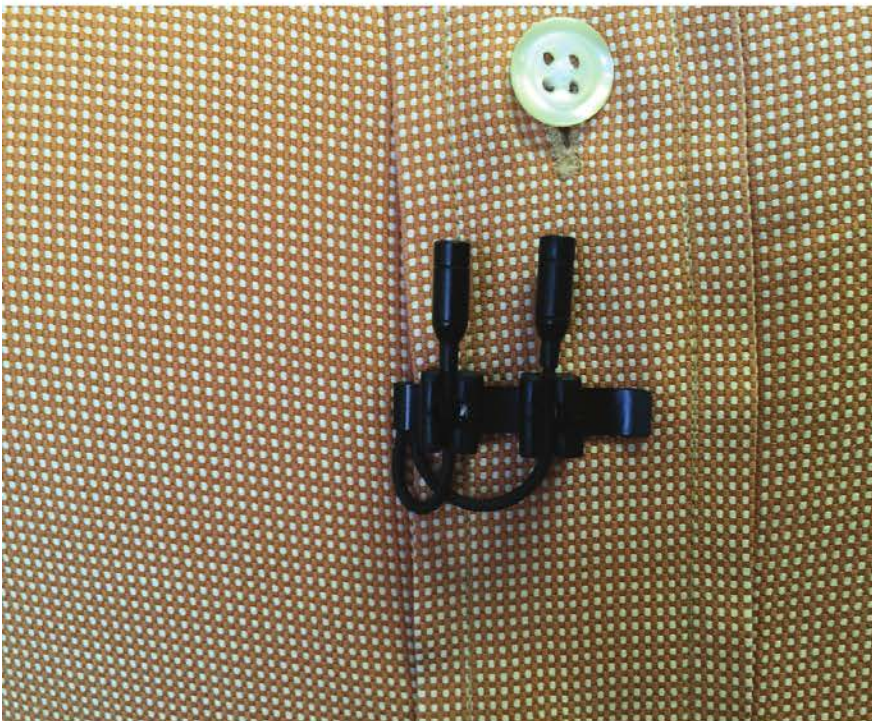
Double mic'ing is using two discrete microphones and channels (a primary and a backup) to ensure consistent and uninterrupted audio in case the primary mic goes dead or experiences a wireless glitch during a sermon. The goal of double mic'ing is to create a seamless switchover mic'ing solution at any point during the service.

WHEN AND WHY SHOULD I USE DOUBLE MIC'ING?

Ask this question: "What will you do if the pastor's microphone glitches or goes dead during the sermon?" Simply put, double mic'ing should be used whenever the pastor is speaking. But it's essential during the sermon where the focus is fully on the message and the messenger.

Experienced RF tech and A2 Richard Stockton supports the backup mic'ing strategy: "The goal in audio production is to ensure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. A backup audio plan in general, is an essential step in achieving this goal because, at some point, your lead mic will glitch and you will need to address this quickly. Also, remember that when the pastor's mic goes dead, every other feed from the sermon — broadcast, recording, live stream — goes out as well, multiplying the impact."

PHOTO ABOVE: SOME MICS, LIKE THE CO2-8WL FROM POINT SOURCE AUDIO, HAVE A DOUBLE MIC BUILT-IN.




both mics before the service.

Perfectly matched audio in a dual mic setup contributes to a transparent backup solution. Testing the mics before a service will help, but if the mics are different types/patterns, or elements in the two mics are not matched, the differences in audio quality will still be noticeable and distracting.

New designs such as the Point Source Audio CO2-8WL lavalier address this. The CO2-8WL is the first-ever dual lavalier mic with matched elements for perfectly matched audio. And, cable clutter can be reduced through mics like the CO2-8WL that uses a single feed for the two mics that splits mid-body, feeding two discrete body packs/channels.

CONCLUSION

Seeing double when you're mic'ing the pastor doesn't have to be a symptom of stress. With a solid double mic'ing strategy in place, both you — and your pastor — will be showing a satisfied smile at the end of each service. 

HOW TO DOUBLE MIC YOUR PASTOR

Here are three double mic'ing solutions to common mic'ing techniques: lavalier, earworn, or a handheld/podium.

LAVALIER

For a lav or clip-on mic, use two lavalier microphones clipped side by side, each with a separate body pack and dedicated wireless channel. This way, if the primary lav goes dead, you can quickly mute it and enable the backup mic/channel. In situations where the dual lav mic elements are perfectly or closely matched (more about this later), the switchover can be seamless.

HEADWORN MICROPHONES

Headworn microphones come in three basic forms: Earworn, Headset and Earmount. Headworn microphones are increasingly popular with pastors because they match maximum mobility with a low profile style for a high quality audio signal. But, since a headworn is a single source feed attached to one ear, an earmounted or lapel lavalier — or a handheld should be readily available as backup.

HANDHELD/PODIUM

For a podium, mount two mics together, with the second mic designated as a backup. If your pastor moves around and prefers a handheld to a lavalier or headset, the best plan is to have a second wireless mic within easy reach. In either case, be sure to closely match audio quality (use EQ or compression if necessary) of

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PHOTOS (TOP LEFT): AN EXAMPLE OF TRADITIONAL DOUBLE MIC'ING.
(ABOVE): THE CO2-8WL, DESIGNED WITH BUILT-IN BACK-UP, IS TWO MICS IN ONE.