



## Shure PG24/PG58 Wireless Vocal System



Shure's PG24/PG58 wireless handheld microphone system is a part of their Performance Gear Wireless line.

The mic operates over a 12 Mhz range and up to eight systems are qualified for use in conjunction with one another. It is powered by a 9 V battery that provides eight hours of use. There is also a power and mute switch along with a -10db input attenuation for louder singers who may otherwise distort the mic. There are 10 pre-determined frequencies that the mic operates on. The channel must be set identically on both the microphone and receiver. The mic itself is light (218 grams/7.7 oz) and housed in light moulded plastic. The RF output is 10 mw. There is a LED indicator on the receiver that glows green to show average signal, amber to indicate strong signal, and red to indicate distorted signal – which I found very handy. The mic itself has a number of extra LED Indicators including flashing red, which indicates the need to replace the battery, flashing green and red which indicates that controls (mute, power) are locked and flashing amber and red which indicates that the mute is on/the battery is low. The PG4 receiver is a small (7.4" x 4" x 1.5") plastic diversity unit weighing in at just 241g (8.5 oz) with >50db typical image rejection and sensitivity through typical analysis is -105dbm for 12db SINAD. It has both line and mic level outputs.

One feature that I enjoyed most on this unit was the transmitter lockout function,

which prevents accidental shutdown or muting of the mic; this has posed a problem for me in the past. It should be mentioned that this series does not have auto tuning or syncing which is a feature included on many other lines offered by Shure. This would allow for automatic tuning to available frequencies and synchronization of mic and receiver through infrared technology, but for the price this is to be expected. OK, now that we got that out of the way, on to my real world test.

Every Thursday night I mix a band called The Madhatters at Dragonfly Niteclub in Niagara Falls, ON. I mix on a Midas Venice console with outboard gear from TC Electronics and DBX. There is nothing in my chain that isn't in the upper range of audio equipment, so introducing a wireless system with an MSRP of \$450 was enough to get my heart rate up. I set it up and tested it during sound check because vocalist Anthony DiCarlo offered to use the mic for the entire night. I noticed that the mic had thicker low mids (400 Hz), which I attenuated slightly (by 2db), and required a presence boost in the high end (3db boost at 12 KHz) in order to achieve the same clarity as the SM58 he would normally use. The mic performed admirably with these subtle tweaks; the vocals sounded big and cut through the mix.

I decided to really test the performance of the receiver by keeping it at my mixing desk, 100' from the stage. There were no audible dropouts or RF interference throughout the sound check, which gave me more confidence about using it for the night. I monitored the mic closely with my headphones during the show to listen for any type of interference, but the mic performed without a single hiccup from 10:30 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Needless to say, I am pleased with the results. In fairness, I would have preferred

a better-sounding microphone capsule than the supplied PG58, though it did perform well. I personally love the Shure Beta 58 as a live mic. In the PGX series, which is Shure's next line up, one has the option of selecting either a SM58, Beta 58, or SM 86 capsule. I would prefer the Beta 58 capsule with its auto syncing function. That said, the PG24/58 certainly offers value for the dollar and will please most users.

To sum up my experience, this system from Shure is a viable option for live acts that need a cost-effective handheld wireless solution. If you want more advanced wireless features and better capsule options that still fall within a moderate price range, take a look at the PGX line offered by Shure.

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### Distributor's Comments

With Performance Gear Wireless systems, all musicians can now experience the technology found in Shure's higher-end wireless series. Despite its fairly affordable price, it boasts the same legendary Shure sound quality and reliability as all of the company's other wireless systems. In addition to the handheld system, Performance Gear Wireless is also available in different combinations with either Lavalier mics (PG185TQG) or headworn microphones (PG30TQG).

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