

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO MICROPHONES

This invention relates to microphone apparatus.

Microphones are well known and fall into two basic types, those which include a wire connection to an amplifier means and those which are wireless, with a transmitter being provided in the microphone and a receiver connected to the amplifier. The former wire type has the advantage of low cost whereas the latter provides flexibility in use and operation.

It is the object of the invention to provide improved microphone apparatus.

According to the invention in a first aspect there is provided a wireless transmitter for a microphone, the transmitter having a user-releasable connector for connection to a corresponding connector of a said microphone.

According to the invention in a third aspect, there is provided a microphone comprising a sound receiving means connectable to a wireless transmitter by a user-releasable connector.

According to the invention in a second aspect, there is provided a microphone comprising a sound receiving means connected to an output lead by a user-releasable

connection and a wireless transmitter connectable to the sound receiving means in place of the lead.

The described embodiment of the invention allow a user to initially purchase a less expensive wired connection for the microphone and then, if required, may detach the lead connection and substitute this with the modular transmitter for wireless use with a suitable receiver.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 illustrates the embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2a-c show the interchangeability of wired and wireless connections for the microphone.

Figure 3 is a view of the socket connector of the transmitter in the direction 3'-3' of figure 2b.

With reference to the Figures, a microphone 20 is shown which is connected to a transmitter 30 by a releasable connection means 40, in the form of a three-pin plug and socket connector having three pins 42-44 provided in a cylindrical recess 46 in the microphone 20 and a complementary plug 48 provided with three corresponding sockets 50-52 on the

transmitter 30.

The plug 48 is provided with a snap-fit connector 60 for engagement in a slot 62 in the wall of the microphone 20. The connector 60 is biased outwardly and may be depressed to allow the connection means to be separated by pressing on release member 64.

The transmitter electronics are of conventional construction having an integrated circuit transmitter driver 36 and battery 32 disposed in adjacent compartments in the transmitter casing. The battery compartment is closed by a removable cover 34.

The microphone 20 may be connected either to the transmitter 30 or to a wire lead 70, which is provided with a plug 72 the same as plug of transmitter 30, so that the transmitter and lead are interchangeable.

For wired use, the microphone 20 is connected to the wire lead 70 for connection directly to an amplifier unit. Alternatively, if it is desired to use wireless operation, the lead is detached and replaced by the transmitter 30. In such a case, a receiver is connected to the amplifier input in place of the lead.

The invention allows the user to purchase the relatively inexpensive wired microphone connection

initially and should the user wish subsequently to upgrade to a wireless connection, for use for example for karaoke in a home or vehicle where a wired connection is inconvenient and could be dangerous, the transmitter (and amplifier receiver) may be purchased subsequently and connected instead of the lead.

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CLAIMS

1. A wireless transmitter for a microphone, the transmitter having a user-releasable connector for connection to a corresponding connector of a said microphone.
2. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the releasable connector comprises a plug or socket.
3. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the releasable connector includes snap-fit means for engagement with a said microphone.
4. A microphone comprising a sound receiving means connectable to a wireless transmitter by a user releasable connector.
5. A microphone comprising a sound receiving means connected to an output lead by a user-releasable connection and a wireless transmitter for connection to the sound receiving means in place of the lead.