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▶▶ THE MICROPHONE COMPANY

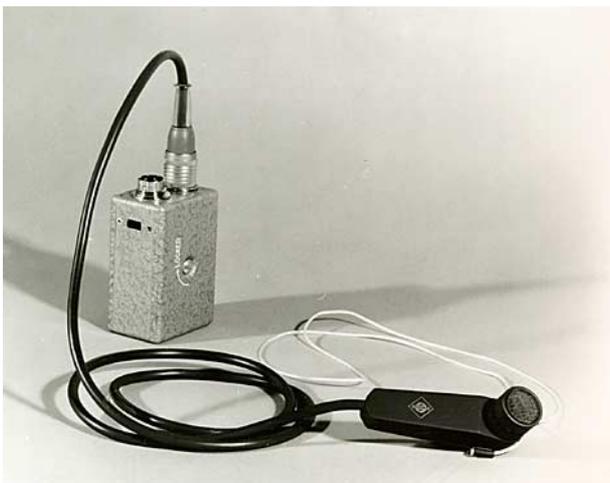
KML - The Lavalier Microphone

By the early 1960's, the age of made-for-TV stage productions was in full swing. Musicals and quiz shows placed new and completely different demands on broadcast technology. Neumann rose to meet those demands in 1966 by developing the KML condenser Lavalier microphone. This new mic was especially designed for recording conditions involving two or more non-stationary voices – particularly the kinds of “interview” situations encountered by emcees, reporters and game show hosts.

The microphone features a capsule with a cardioid pattern largely similar to that of the KM 64. When attached to clothing, it does not point upwards but rather straight ahead, the wearer's voice thus strikes the membrane at less than a 90 degree angle. When addressed from this angle, the microphone's responds with a 6 dB reduction in its transfer constant. However, it has the same frequency response as when addressed from the front, therefore reducing distortions due to differing angles of incidence to an absolute minimum.



Provided they maintain a constant distance to each other, the person wearing the KML and the other parties in the



conversation are recorded at equal levels and without coloration. The forward-pointing capsule also gives the speaker a more natural sound, minimizing the usual need for heavy equalization so common for lavalier microphones of the time. Mounting this microphone is simple: it can be worn on a strap around the neck or attached directly to the clothing with a clip.

The KML is equipped with a field-effect transistor (FET) and can be powered directly with a wireless body pack or pocket transmitter. One model commonly used at the time was the Sennheiser SK 1007. Battery-powered cable operation is also a standard powering method.

For those interested in the origin of the term “Lavalier”: Louise Françoise de Lavallière, Ludwig the XIV's lover, was known to wear a decorative scarf loosely around her neck. This type of scarf became fashionable in the second half of the 19th Century as an “artist's scarf”.

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

