

Rycote for microphones

The name **Rycote** has become synonymous throughout much of the audio industry with the zeppelin-shaped windshield and its soft fur-like cover.

These windshields - or windscreens - were originally produced for the shot-gun microphones favoured by film and television on location but over the years the range of products has increased to solve problems for a much wider selection of microphones.



Windshields

The **windshields** themselves vary in size and length from ones suitable for the longest of rifle microphones, through more conventional “mono” sizes to stereo versions that can hold an MS pair or even an XY arrangement with compact capsules. There is also the diminutive, but adaptable **Baby Ball Gag** that can be used on anything from stick mics for interviews to the individual microphones of non-coincident stereo and multichannel arrays.



The windshields are almost perfectly transparent to

Windjammers

The fur covering - it has to be an artificial fabric, not a “real” fur - is also selected for its acoustic transparency. Used in conjunction with a windshield it adds considerably to the windnoise reduction by absorbing turbulence energy soundlessly.

The covers are matched in size to particular windshields and are available for all of them. They have acquired a range of nicknames, many of them



Suspensions

Windshields require the microphone to be held accurately at its centre and the suspension serves this purpose. It also provides a large measure of isolation from shock and handling noise.

The award-winning **Modular Suspension** uses a number of standardised components to provide a wide range of sizes suitable for anything from a metre of heavy shotgun microphone to the few tens of grams of



1-module stereo Modular



2-module mono Modular

Suspensions come in 1, 2 or 3 module lengths (plus ½ for the single hoop version) - and also in a larger “stereo” diameter. Any of the common shank diameters of 19-25mm



½ module stereo MS Modular Suspension

It is even possible to add an accessory cage to permit XY arrangements with compact or remote capsule



An alternative suspension system that is suitable for many microphones used in conventional film and television work is the **Utility Mount**. It can be used alone or with standard

Connections

The isolation properties of a suspension are easily compromised by the stiffness of the connecting cable. Rycote can offer “soft tails” - extremely flexible short leads fitted with an anti-rattle XLR-3 connector. For use with the Modular System, the **Connbox** provides a more sophisticated solution. There are mono, single-shank stereo (XLR-5) and dual XLR-3 configurations. The standard XLR-3 connector is a special anti-rattle type but there are also Lemo plug versions (suitable for the



5-pin stereo



Mono Connbox



Pistol grips and boom adaptors

The pistol grips and boom adaptors of suspensions are fitted with 3/8" Whitworth female threads for attachment to standard boom poles and microphone supports.



Multimount

Sometimes more compact suspensions are required. The Multimount is an adaptable and robust design that can fit onto both the “hot-shoe” slides of many cameras and also 3/8"W threaded stands and poles. It comes in sizes to suit microphone shank diameters from 19-25mm.

Softies

The **Softie** range was conceived for the rough, tough world of Electronic News Gathering but is now widely used in other fields. It is a true cavity windshield system using an acoustically transparent foam core and an



**Softie +
Softie mount**



Short-haired Softie

The Softies themselves come in a range of lengths and diameters to suit most common microphones in the 19-25mm diameter range. They are frequently allied to the **Softie Mount** which provides a matching suspension arrangement but

Where camera microphones project well forward of the lens or are mounted very close to it the **Short-haired Softie variant** may be more suitable and sacrifices only a small amount of windnoise

A complement to the Softie/Softie Mount combination is the **Windspoiler**. This push-on design covers and streamlines the rear section of the microphone and provides a substantial improvement in windnoise reduction coupled with zero degradation of the audio.



Windspoiler

Rycote

The full range of **Rycote** products can be found on the **Rycote** Website

www.rycote.com