

Birdmic

Parabolic microphone · ONE · PRO · Dual

There are four different boxes and this manual covers all of them. Find yours in the table: the sections that don't apply to you carry a note next to the heading.

What you have bought	Mic ONE	Mic PRO	Pack ONE	Pack PRO
Parabolic dish	black	green	black	green
Audible capsule, fitted	ONE	PRO	ONE	PRO
Handle, strap and locking nut (i)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phone mount (g) , carry bag and QR card	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orange TRS-TRS cable (m)	✓	✓	—	✓
Recorder mounting hardware, 3 pieces	✓	✓	—	✓
Hot shoe adapter (n)	✓	✓	—	✓
Audio interface	—	—	✓	✓
Earphones (s)	—	—	✓	✓
Black TRRS-TRRS cable (j)	—	—	✓	✓
jack → USB-C adapter	—	—	✓	✓
Adapter (l) TRS-TRRS, for cameras	—	—	—	✓
USB-A to USB-C charging cable	—	—	✓	✓
Windshield	—	—	—	✓

If you have a Birdmic Dual, on top of all that you also get the **Batmic Capsule** in its own box, with its own key and its own battery. It has a separate manual, at birdfox.tech/user-manuals

1 • The parts



Figure A • The parts of the system

1 Audio interface • 2 USB-A to USB-C charging cable • 3 Parabolic dish with the capsule fitted • 4 Phone mount (g) • 5 jack → USB-C adapter • 6 • 7 • 8 Hardware for mounting the recorder • 9 Adapter (l), male TRS to female TRRS • 10 Flash hot shoe adapter (n) • 11 Black TRRS-TRRS cable (j) • 12 Orange TRS-TRS cable (m) • 13 Earphones (s) • 14 Carry strap • 15 Handle • 16 Locking nut (i), which comes already fitted on the screw of the dish.

The figure shows every part of the system. Your box has some of them or others, depending on the model.

And these are the letters you will see in the assembly figures:

a male jack of the interface	f BOOST	k PHONE output	p charging led
b female jack of the dish	g phone mount	l TRS-TRRS adapter	q splitter (Kit Sharing)
c OUT output	h accessory screw	m orange TRS-TRS cable	s earphones
d OFF / ON / CUT switch	i locking nut	n hot shoe adapter	x power led
e volume	j black TRRS-TRRS cable	o low battery led	

2 · Listening to birds

WITH INTERFACE · PACK ONE · PACK PRO

1. Screw the **handle** and the **carry strap** onto the parabolic dish. (fig. 1)
2. Plug the **male jack of the interface (a)** into the **female jack of the dish (b)**. (fig. 2)
3. Plug the **earphones (s)** into the **OUT (c)** output of the interface. If you want whoever is with you to hear it too, put the **splitter (q)** from the **Kit Sharing** in between and plug a pair of earphones into each output. (fig. 3) The Kit Sharing is sold separately.
4. Set the switch **(d)** to **ON**. The **led (x)** lights up and you are already listening. Adjust the **volume (e)** to taste. (fig. 4)

If you can't hear anything, check the earphone cable. It has its own volume control, and out of the box it isn't always turned all the way up. It is the number one cause of “it doesn't work”.



fig. 1

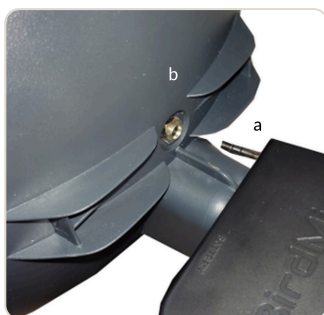


fig. 2

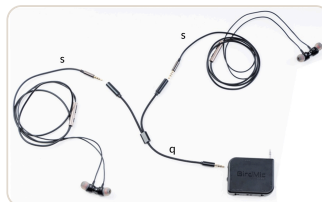


fig. 3



fig. 4

The three controls

Switch (d) — It has three positions: **OFF**, **ON** and **CUT**.

CUT is a high-pass filter at 300 Hz: it takes out the low rumble that swallows everything else. Use it in wind, near a road, out in the fields with machinery in the distance, or whenever the background sounds like a “roar”. You lose nothing of the birdsong: almost everything you care about sits above that frequency.

BOOST (f) — Adds **+12 dB** right across the spectrum. It is for distant and very faint sounds. If the sound gets dirty or distorts when you turn it on, turn it off again: it means the signal was already strong enough.

How to aim

A parabolic dish is very directional, and that is exactly what makes it useful: it picks up what is in front of it and leaves out almost everything else. It also means that **aiming badly is the difference between hearing it and not hearing it**. Move the dish slowly until the sound jumps up. Once you have it, the bird is exactly on the axis of the dish, even if you can't see it.

3 • Recording with your phone

WITH INTERFACE • PACK ONE • PACK PRO

1. Fit the **phone mount (g)** to the dish, on the **accessory screw (h)**, with a **locking nut (i)**. (fig. 5) Position it with the opening to the left or to the right, depending on which side the cables come out of your phone. (fig. 6)
2. Put the phone in the mount.
3. Connect the **black TRRS-TRRS cable (j)** from the **PHONE (k)** output of the interface to the phone's jack socket. (fig. 7) If your phone has no jack socket — and hardly any do these days — use the **jack → USB-C adapter** included.
4. Use **CUT** and **BOOST** to shape what reaches the phone, and listen on the earphones while you record.

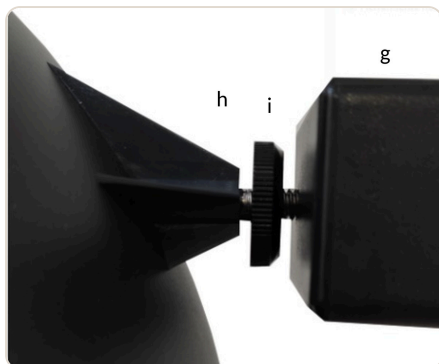


fig. 5



fig. 6



fig. 7

If the phone doesn't detect the input, follow this order and it usually sorts itself out: **1.** open the app and start it recording • **2.** plug the cable into the USB-C port • **3.** switch the interface on. The phone then picks up the signal.

If you hear a rhythmic buzz, that is the phone's mobile signal interfering with the microphone. Turn on **aeroplane mode** and it goes away.

Without the interface, with the Smartphone Kit

MIC ONE • MIC PRO

If you bought the dish on its own, you can still record with your phone. You need the **Smartphone Kit**, which has the three pieces required: the **adapter (l)**, the **black TRRS-TRRS cable** and the **jack → USB-C adapter**. With those the dish plugs straight into the phone.

What you lose compared with the full pack is **monitoring**: with no interface there is no earphone output, so you record without hearing what you are recording. You don't get CUT or BOOST either.

4 • The Birdfox Recorder app

Free, for Android. It records the **unprocessed** audio from the phone — without the automatic gain control that phones come with from the factory — and shows you the spectrogram as you record. You can trim, add a photo as a field note and export with GUANO metadata.

You don't need it to use the Birdmic: you can record with any app. But this is the one built for the job.

Full guide and download: birdfox.tech/app

5 • With your video camera

MIC ONE • MIC PRO • PACK PRO

Mounting. Fix the dish to the flash hot shoe with the **adapter (n)** and two locking nuts. (*fig. 8*) The dish weighs 169 g with the microphone included, so it won't unbalance the camera.

With the audio interface • Pack PRO

1. First go through the steps in “Listening to birds”.
2. Plug the **adapter (l)** — male TRS to female TRRS — into the camera's audio input.
3. Connect the **black cable (j)** from the **PHONE (k)** output of the interface to the adapter (l).
4. Plug the earphones into the interface and monitor the sound.

Straight from the microphone • Mic ONE • Mic PRO

Connect the **orange TRS-TRS cable (m)** from the dish (**b**) to the camera's audio input, with no adapter at all. (*fig. 9*) If your camera has no headphone output, you won't be able to monitor the sound while you record.



fig. 8



fig. 9

6 • With your field recorder

MIC ONE • MIC PRO • PACK PRO

Fix the recorder to the **accessory screw (h)**. You may need the mounting hardware included. (fig. 10)

Connect the **orange TRS-TRS cable (m)** from the dish (**b**) to the recorder's microphone input, with no adapter at all. Plug the earphones into the recorder's output and use it as normal: the recorder itself gives you the monitoring.

The dish is powered by the *plug-in power* those inputs provide: it needs no batteries and no separate supply.



fig. 10

Have a Pack ONE and want to use a recorder or a camera? You can: all you are missing is the **orange TRS-TRS cable**, which we sell on its own at birdfox.tech/accessories. With it your Birdmic also works with any field recorder or any camera with a microphone input.

7 • Changing the capsule

The capsule screws into the centre of the dish and **is easy to change**: unscrew the one that is there and screw the new one in, without forcing it. You can do it out in the field.

It is the same move whether you are stepping up from the **ONE** capsule to the **PRO** or fitting the **Batmic Capsule** to listen to bats. **Every replacement capsule, Birdmic or Batmic, comes with its own key.** The Batmic Capsule also has its own separate manual.

- Screw it in **all the way, without overtightening**. Half a turn loose and you can hear it.
- **Don't touch the membrane** of the capsule while you handle it.



Figure C • Changing the capsule

8 • The windshield

INCLUDED IN THE PACK PRO • SOLD SEPARATELY FOR THE REST

The windshield fits over the dish and **the capsule holds it in place**: the capsule goes straight into the hole in the windshield **with its foam still on** and holds it there, with no straps and no screws.

With the ONE capsule, take it slowly. It fits just the same, but the type of soldering on that capsule makes it more delicate than the PRO. Hold the capsule by its body and don't force the windshield against it. Take it off gently and be careful not to bend the solder joints.

Always put it on **before** you start: wind noise can't be fixed afterwards with any filter. For the low rumble that is still left, use **CUT**.



Figure D • Fitting the windshield

9 • How far your Birdmic goes

Batmic Capsule — It screws into your dish, ONE or PRO, out in the field, with the key that comes in its box. It divides the frequency by ten and turns ultrasound into sound you can hear: the same kit, the same cables, and suddenly bats.

Kit Sharing — The splitter (**q**) and a second pair of earphones, for listening two at a time.

Binoplate System — It couples the microphone to your binoculars, so you only have to aim once.

All of it at birdfox.tech/accessories



Figure B • Binoplate System

10 • Battery and charging

PACK ONE • PACK PRO

The interface has a rechargeable lithium battery that charges from any standard phone charger (5 V DC input over USB-C) and lasts **about 12 hours of use**.

Use the **USB-A to USB-C cable supplied**. Other cables can cause charging problems, and **USB-C to USB-C cables are particularly troublesome**: many of them negotiate power in a way the interface doesn't recognise and it simply won't charge. If your charger only has a USB-C output, use an adapter so you can still plug in the USB-A cable supplied.

- **Red led on the front (o)** lit: battery low, time to charge.
- **Charging led (p)** in **red**: charging. In **green**: fully charged.

11 • Care

- Clean the dish with a slightly damp cloth. No solvents, no alcohol.
- Don't touch the capsule membrane and don't clean it with anything.
- If you come back damp, let the kit air-dry before you put it away in the bag.
- The Birdmic stands up to the field, but **it is not submersible**. In rain, keep it covered.
- Store the interface with some charge in it if it is going to sit unused for months.

12 · If something doesn't work

What's happening	What to check
No sound at all	The volume on the earphone cable itself, which is usually turned down · the switch (d) at ON and the led (x) lit · the jacks pushed all the way in · the red led (o) : flat battery
Sound is very quiet	Turn up the volume (e) · switch on BOOST (f) · check that the capsule is screwed properly into the dish
Sound is distorted	Switch BOOST off. The signal was already strong enough
Rhythmic buzzing	That's the phone's mobile signal. Turn on aeroplane mode
Constant low rumble	Switch on CUT . If it is wind, you also need the windshield
The phone doesn't detect the input	App recording first, then the cable, and the interface last
The interface won't switch on	Charge it with the USB-A to USB-C cable supplied. USB-C to USB-C cables often won't charge it
Sound comes through but very dirty on the phone	Some apps apply automatic noise reduction. Try Birdfox Recorder, which uses the unprocessed input

If none of that fixes it, write to us at info@birdfox.tech. The people who make the thing are the ones who answer.

13 · Safety

- Do not expose the product to rain or damp.
- Do not open or puncture the internal battery.
- Keep the device away from sources of excessive heat.
- Use only CE-certified 5 V USB power supplies.
- Do not use damaged charging cables.
- Disconnect the device if you notice it overheating.
- This product contains an internal lithium-ion battery that is **not replaceable**.
- Do not leave it charging for long periods.

14 · Warranty, conformity and disposal

Warranty. If you bought from us directly at birdfox.tech, you have **3 years** of legal guarantee of conformity from delivery. If you bought from a shop in your own country, that country's legal guarantee applies, with a minimum of 2 years in the European Union, and you must go to that shop first. For any questions, write to us at info@birdfox.tech with your proof of purchase.

Conformity. This product carries the **CE marking**. The EU declaration of conformity is available at birdfox.tech or by writing to us.

Disposal. This product and its battery must not be thrown out with household waste. Dispose of them in line with your local electronic waste regulations.

Specifications

PARABOLIC DISH

High-strength ABS, black (ONE) or non-reflective military green (PRO) · 25 cm diameter · 7 cm deep · focal point 5.36 cm · 169 g with microphone · 1/4" threads for clamp, recorder, hot shoe or strap.

ONE CAPSULE

PUI AOM series · 9.7 mm · -24 dB · S/N 80 dB · max SPL 110 dB · 20 Hz – 20 kHz.

PRO CAPSULE

PRIMO EM272Z1 · 10 mm · -28 dB · S/N 80 dB · max SPL 119 dB · 20 Hz – 20 kHz · dual-plate mounting.

AUDIO INTERFACE

6.6 × 5.4 × 1.4 cm · 42 g · input male 3.5 mm TRS jack · phone output female 3.5 mm TRRS jack · earphone output female 3.5 mm TRS jack · BOOST +12 dB · CUT high-pass at 300 Hz · Li-Po battery 250 mAh, about 12 h · charging 5 V DC over USB-C.

EARPHONES

In-ear with silicone seal and magnetic clasp · 3.5 mm TRRS jack · 10 mm driver · 1.2 m cable · 20 Hz – 20 kHz.

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