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Price £129 (£110 ex VAT)

Contact Blue Microphones

+ [bluemic.com](http://bluemic.com)

Needs USB port

Pros Four modes + Headphone socket  
+ Gain control + Looks great

Cons Headphone volume and gain  
controls a bit flimsy

Verdict A highly versatile, robust,  
and great quality USB microphone  
that's fit for any audio recording task.

**B**lue Microphones' Yeti is a USB condenser microphone. It has three capsules and four pattern settings, which means it can be used in a number of environments and for different purposes. You can record in stereo or one of three patterns: cardioid, where audio is picked up from directly in front of the microphone; omnidirectional, which collects sound from around the mic at equal volume; and bi-directional, where audio is picked up from in front of, and behind, the microphone.

The Yeti has a built-in headphone amplifier for zero-latency monitoring and controls for pattern selection, headphone volume, mute and microphone gain. It's also THX certified.

This is a hefty microphone and not one you'll want to carry around for field work. It's nearly a foot tall, but its aluminium retro-styling means that it manages to look stylish despite its size.

Setting up the Yeti is easy. Simply, attach it to your Mac using the supplied USB cable, and select it in the Sound pane of System Preferences. Audio quality is, as you would expect from a THX-certified microphone, excellent. The omni- and bi-directional modes do a great job of picking up audio only from the zones in front of, or in front and behind in the case of the bi-directional setting, the mic. Our only complaint is that the gain and headphone controls are a little flimsy compared to the excellent build quality of the rest of the microphone.

If you need a versatile microphone for regular studio or desktop use, the Yeti is ideal.

**Kenny Hemphill**

