

The SM58 and the BETA58A Shure Microphones

What's the Difference?

Shure Model
SM58



Shure SM58® (“SM” for “Studio Microphone”) was introduced in 1966 and was quickly adopted by rock-and-roll musicians, who found that it offered the right combination of rugged reliability and excellent sound quality. It quickly became the standard for live performance vocals. The SM58 is the most popular vocal microphone in the world.

The Shure BETA series of Microphones were introduced in 1989, and was originally available in different grill types. In 1996, Shure created the BETA58A and the BETA58 was discontinued. The new BETA58A model had a new cartridge design, and slightly different sound characteristics.

More information below...

Courtesy of Shure

Shure Model
BETA58A



The main difference with these two microphones is the Polar Pattern. The SM58 is a Cardioid, and the BETA58A is a Supercardioid. The BETA58A has higher sensitivity and a “hotter” output (4dB), and has both extended Low and High end when compared to the SM58. Both of these microphones work best from the front, but the BETA58A is more directional due to its Supercardioid polar pattern.

Although the BETA58A is certainly an upgrade to the SM58 – using this microphone would still depend on what application you will be using it for. It's very possible that certain vocalists (due to the tone and characteristic of their singing voice) would sound better using an SM58 (or maybe not? It Depends). The best option to find out which of these two microphones works best for your voice or application would be to demo them both and find out for yourself (then you'll definitely know which one truly works best for you).

Both of these microphones have great sound quality and performance, and you can't go wrong using either one of them. So, to answer the question “Which one is Better?” the answer would have to be “It Depends!”