

# Tech Talk



A review of the Micromuff wind gag for DSLRs and small cameras - by Kevin Cook

You would have thought that on the back of ProVideo I'd be talking about all the latest in 'big ticket' items on show. To tell you the truth so did I, but something landed on my desk just before the show which really does need a mention - Micromuff.

I cannot ever remember reviewing something with a £12.95 price tag before. In fact, I'm not sure I've ever seen anything for sale in this industry for this kind of money. Enough on the price already! Could this really be the best thirteen quid you have ever spent?

## Muff talk

As if it isn't obvious, but Micromuff is a furry wind gag for the pretty much any DSLR or small camera with an internal microphone. We all know you should never need one of these

as you should never be using the built-in mic as its about as much use as an ashtray on a speedboat. That's not the real world though - is it?

As poor as it is, quite often you'll be using the sound from the internal mic if only as a guide track. But, every now and then you'll end up having to use the audio from this mic in your final master as it's the only sound you'll have. Accidents and oversights do happen - so its good to have something that gets over one of the major shortcomings of the internal mics on these cameras and that's the horrible sound of wind noise that they are susceptible to - even in the mildest of wind conditions. Even a little bit of rapid camera movement can cause wind noise on these little horrors so anything that can cut it out has got to be a godsend.



## The Muff Ensemble

The Micromuff actually consists of two parts - the furry wind jammer with a Velcro friendly base and then a self-adhesive, ring-shaped Velcro pad which is permanently stuck over the holes on the camera which conceal the onboard mic. My first thought was, "Do I really want to stick something to the body of my shiny camera?" Well I did, and I don't think I ever want it to come off now that I've had a chance to use the Micromuff. Should you really feel the need to take it off don't worry, it doesn't leave behind and nasty glue residue.

Micromuff comes in a nice eco-friendly cardboard box - a bit like a mini hat box - so when you are filming indoors you can keep your Micromuff nice and safe in your kit bag. I suspect though that the detachable nature of the Micromuff means that every now and then you are going to lose one. I think its inevitable. I dare say one or two have already been lost in strong wind conditions as the user gets them out of their box and drops them before they are properly attached. Once on though they are so firmly anchored I can't imagine them detaching from the camera unintentionally.



## Muff stuff

Once attached you will notice an incredible improvement in wind noise. Unless you are filming in a force-10 gale or blowing right into the mic it is going to



eliminate pretty much everything - making otherwise unusable audio usable. I was still a little concerned at how securely the Velcro fitting would work but once its on its on!

I must admit that it does look a little strange attached to the camera, and it does attract some strange looks and comments (even more so than a full-size wind gag). It almost looks like you were filming near to a roadside and caught a flying fragment from a rather nasty road-kill incident.

Exploding bunnies aside, the most important thing is that it does its job. There's a lot of people raving about Micromuff and I understand why - it cures what is otherwise a very awkward wind problem!

I can certainly think of worse ways to spend £13 that's for sure. I'm also sure that if you ever do lose one (on the wind or just because its lurking in a dark corner of your kit bag) its not exactly going to break the bank if you have to buy another. ■

Kevin Cook F.Inst.V.

Notes: Check out [www.micromuff.com](http://www.micromuff.com) for more details and examples.