

REVIEWED

Trantec

Trantec S4.16 Wireless Mic System

SRP

Belt pack for guitar/
lapel mic £255.31
(excluding VAT)
Handheld microphone
pack: £255.31
(excluding VAT)
Tel: 02083 303111
www.trantec.co.uk

WHAT ARE THEY?

Wireless setups for your guitar
or microphone, allowing you to
move around without fear of
tripping or coming unplugged.

WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?

Because standing still is for
losers, my dear.

THE COMPANY SAYS...

"The ultimate choice when
looking into a product that will
meet your demands now and in
the future."

IS IT FOR ME?

If you're a guitarist or
vocalist who like to go walkabout
on stage, or even embark on a spot of
crowdsurfing, it'll be obvious that your lead
has been holding you back. This system, too, is the
obvious answer. If you spend the whole time stood in
one place and would never even dream of rocking out, then
this isn't for you. Having said that, it certainly makes general
setup during soundcheck a lot easier – once you're acquainted
with how everything works there's no fanning about untangling
cables or searching desparately for a jack lead that hasn't been
stood on and broken.

If, alternatively, you're looking for a significant rig to
perhaps wire up (so to speak) your own venue or
festival, then you can talk to a Trantec dealer
about the rackmounted packs that are
also available. They're equally
reasonable price wise, and
we can't doubt their
quality! **PM**

Wireless systems: are they any good? Trantec can't speak for everyone, but their S4.16 has certainly made quite the impression on us

Words: Rob Sandall

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!!

You are nearing the end of
your song now. It has been the
performance of a lifetime, there's
not doubt about it. The crowd are
going nuts, and the A&R scout is
looking at you with a grin. You've
finally made it – your time has come!
If you have a standard
microphone, go to a)
If you have a Trantec S4.16
system, go to b)

a) You spring backward onto
your mic cable, tangling up
your feet in the process. Falling
backwards with your hands flailing,

you attempt to steady yourself on
the nearest object, which turns out
to be your bassist. He joins your
freefall without consent, unable to
take the strain, and at a high speed
now, you hurtle towards the drum
kit and a worried-looking drummer.

b) And so the real review begins.
Alright, perhaps the above is a
little melodramatic, but we've all
seen it happen before. There's
nothing more embarrassing than
watching an ambitious frontman
give it some serious welly, only to
see him stumble over his own cable
and spend the rest of the set trying
desperately to save face. Guitarists
can fall even easier prey to the ▶

S4.16

wireless system

▶ problem, often finding
themselves attached to a mic stand
or snagged around a snare because
of a pesky errant cable. While it's not
first on the agenda when it comes
to starting a band, going wireless
could save you more hassle than
you'd believe. The only thing that
can sometimes be a problem when it
comes down to this sort of thing is the
quality of the mic itself. Fortunately,
that won't be a problem here.

Regular readers will know exactly
how high a regard we hold Trantec
in. The UK firm have sent a number
of microphones our way, each
one performing nothing short of
exquisitely. Two months ago, for
example, the Sigma mics we were
sent helped us pull off a top-notch
recording of a blues band. This
month, we were sent something a
little different.

Let's talk as we always do, and
see how things are looking out of
the box. Depending on what you
might need, there are various kits
that can be ordered. So if you're
an aerobics instructor, why the hell
are you reading this magazine?
But if you're either be in a pop
group's backing band and need
to supply some additional vocals
or you moonlight as an instructor,
there's a headset mic option just
for you. While it was tempting to
break out the lycra, instead we'll
concentrate on the more band
related options: the handheld mic,
and the belt pack option for wireless
riff shennanigans.

The former is a slim, light
microphone, and while it's nowhere
near as pretty as previous sigmas, it
justifies this with a practical look. A
stumpy little receiver on the end ▶



"Going wireless
could save you
more hassle
than you'd ever
believe!"



REVIEWED: Trantec S4.16 Wireless System



“I had an excellent time, running around the office, terrorizing co-workers with hard rock riffs”

► sends out your signal – it doesn't get in the way of anything. Note, too, that this mic is fitted with a dynamic capsule, so there's no doubting how good the sound of your voice will come across. This is good to know: many wireless systems scrimp on mic quality against the novelty value.

The multi-channel that's part and parcel of the package receiver certainly places emphasis on 'multi'. You're granted 16 selectable frequencies in total, and can use 12 of these simultaneously. I hope the Polyphonic Spree are reading this. What's more, assuming you might have the need to spread the various wireless transmitters over a large area, Trantec have thoughtfully included detachable antennae should you need to spread it's range a little further. Neat!

Also on the unit are a host of various LEDs that act as a guide to

the intricate details of your wireless setup. Along with your Powe On light, then, you're also privy to information regarding your AF peak level, RF level and Diversity Channel A or B. If you don't know what this means, you don't need to. Anyone technically minded setting this up will be chuffed, and that's all you need to know.

The guitar beltpack option is a near little box, again not too heavy at all, and you can shunt this into your guitar output with the provided locking jack connection. You'll be happy to know that your average transmitter battery life is around ten hours, so there'll be no embarrassing conk-outs either. Just to be clear, each of the systems is supplied with antenna, battery, instrument lead and power supply: now you just have to decide which one's going to be right for you! Either way, get wireless. **PU**

DOES IT WORK?

Oh yes. Wireless systems are always a little worrying to begin with, because depending on the quality of the product you'll end up with very little range and too much interference. Not so with the Trantec S4.16, though. I had an excellent time running around the office terrorizing co workers, laying down the law with hard rock riffs a considerable distance from the receiver. I even went downstairs to the loo, and can safely say that if i'd so wished, I could have widdled while widdling. It would probably have required leaving the door open for a better line of sight though, and that would have got me fired. Ah well. The handheld mic works just as well, and the feeling of absolute freedom is incomparable to anything else. We had no problems with interference whatsoever, and the signal remained strong through out. This is incredibly good value for money.

PU