

OLLI - Mason  
AV / Technology Support Committee

July 2017

Volume Control of OLLI Instructor-Speech Systems  
“THE GAIN CHAIN”

**Classrooms TA2 / TA3**

**Microphones:**

The use of headworn microphones is preferred. These place the microphone capsule (sound receiving element) next to the side of the speaker’s mouth, at a constant distance therefrom. This should yield the most consistent result. Foam ‘pop’ filters should be installed over the mic capsule.

Lapel, or lavalier mics can be used for those concerned about interference with hearing aids. These should be clipped to clothing or badge lanyard, placed on the body centerline - no more than 5 - 6 inches below the mouth. User should be instructed to try to keep mouth oriented above the mic, turning body, rather than head, when addressing questions, etc. to avoid dropoffs in microphone pickup of their voice.

Handheld mics, both wired and wireless, are designed to be ‘close talked’ - held within 1-3" of the mouth. Held slightly below the mouth will generally avoid popping and breath noises.

**Staff / AV Team only:** Both bodypak and handheld transmitters have a gain adjustment in the setup menu. These settings control the audio output level of the mic transmitter - they should rarely need adjustment - but if someone got into the setup menu in error, anything’s possible. The settings, in db, are: -6,0, +6 and +12 - default is +6db.

The wireless receivers have an AF LEVEL CONTROL potentiometer on the rear panel. Suggested setting is between One and Two o’clock. Maximum output level (discouraged) is fully clockwise.

The Bogen GS60 PA amplifier is used to provide amplification of the sounds picked up by the microphones and distribute them to speakers with grills flush mounted in the ceilings of the classrooms - four in TA2, and six in TA3.

The input gain controls for microphones are located on the left-hand side of Bogen’s front panel. These are marked with a label, and color coded: Green for wireless bodypak (headworn / lapel mic); Yellow for wired handheld mic; Blue for wireless handheld mic (currently only in TA3). Default setting is at 6 of 10. There is a master gain control - far right of Bogen - default is 6 of 10.

**External gain control for instructor / liaison use:** On the outside of the cabinet (RH side of TA2; LH side of TA3) is an Ivory ten position switch-type volume control. Default setting is 6 of 10. If set at 4 or lower, 8 or higher, staff needs to make gain adjustments to the Bogen - an input setting or master gain control are improperly adjusted.