



# microphones 2008

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The ST350 can be powered from the mains or batteries for portable use in the field.

mono, stereo, M/S and surround recording.

The SPS200 microphone is small and lightweight, and is the first SoundField product not to ship with a hardware decoder. Instead, stereo and surround decoding is performed by using the supplied Conversion Lounge and Surround Zone software. These applications run on Macs and Windows PCs, and are compatible with Pro Tools and all DAWs that support the VST Multichannel standard, for example Nuendo, Cubase, and Soundscape. Despite being the most affordable SoundField product, the SPS200 still offers the same

flexible format output and remote operation options of SoundField's more expensive systems. It's ideal for use by one-camera location recording teams with a laptop that need to capture audio in 5.1 surround.

#### More Information

SoundField systems are used daily by many international broadcasters, including France 3, the BBC (UK), RAI (Italy), NBC (USA), SR (Sweden), YLE (Finland), WIGE (Germany) and Topvision (Germany). If you need to provide surround-sound audio for broadcast and would like to discuss your requirements, you can contact SoundField via the details below.

The entry-level SoundField mic, the lightweight SPS200 is used in conjunction with a software B-Format decoding application for Mac or PC.



#### How It Works

SoundField systems are all based around a multi-capsule microphone and hardware or software processing. The microphone contains four sub-cardioid capsules mounted in a tetrahedral arrangement, and when the output from these is decoded by the associated processor, a phase-coherent four-channel signal is created, known as SoundField B-Format. Three of these signals, the X, Y and Z channels, describe the space around the microphone in the X (Front/Back), Y (Left/Right) and Z (Up/Down) dimensions, while the fourth channel, known as W, provides a reference for the other three channels.

It's the B-Format that really distinguishes SoundField from its competitors. Combining signals from spaced microphones can cause phase problems, but because the SoundField B-Format channels are phase-coherent, they can be combined in the decoder without phase artefacts to output mono, stereo, M/S, 5.1, and a variety of other surround formats — simultaneously if required. Users can even record the four B-Format channels and determine the choice of format in post-production if required.

SoundField's B-Format technology offers control over more than just output format. Front-panel controls on the processors allow the rotation of the microphone's pickup through a full 360 degrees. Even the effective physical orientation of the mic and its polar patterns can be continuously altered without physically handling the mic. These features are particularly desirable to live sports broadcasters because engineers can set up the mic in the eaves of a stadium and then make changes to sensitivity and orientation remotely, from the processor. These changes can also be made in post-production if the SoundField B-Format signal is recorded.



The SoundField multi-capsule mic array.

#### Products

##### Digital:

- DSF-1 — A fully digital SoundField system utilising similar technology to the DSF-2, but adapted for high-end music and concert hall recording applications.
- DSF-2 — A digital microphone system designed specifically for broadcast.
- DSF-3 — A 19-inch 1U B-Format-to-5.1 digital decoder, designed for use with the DSF-1 and DSF-2.

##### Software:

- Surround Zone — Stereo/surround post-production software.
- Conversion Lounge — A-Format to B-Format conversion software.



##### Analogue:

- MkV — SoundField's top-of-the-range analogue system.
- SPS422B — Professional microphone system with 1U control processor.
- SP451 — A 19-inch 1U B-Format-to-5.1 analogue decoder.

##### Portable:

- ST350 — Battery powered SoundField microphone system.
- SPS200 — Portable, lightweight stand-alone microphone with software decoding.



#### CONTACT DETAILS

SoundField Ltd.  
Charlotte Street Business Centre  
Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 1UH  
United Kingdom  
t +44 (0)1924 201089  
e [info@soundfield.com](mailto:info@soundfield.com)  
w [www.soundfield.com](http://www.soundfield.com)

#### USA — TransAudio Group

w [www.transaudiogroup.com](http://www.transaudiogroup.com)

#### Germany — SEA Vertrieb

w [www.sea-vertrieb.de](http://www.sea-vertrieb.de)

#### France — SAV

w [www.sav.tv](http://www.sav.tv)