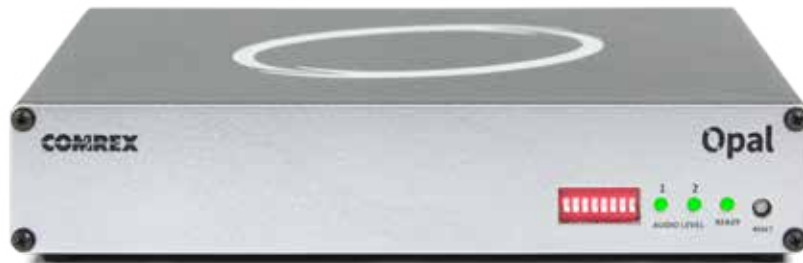


Opal Technote: Why Headsets Are Important



Comrex Opal is a breakthrough device that allows you to take calls from guests that use browsers as their calling device. It provides wideband, low delay audio in both directions, and is extremely simple for the guest. But there's one thing to suggest as strongly as possible when guests call into Opal:

Use a headset!

Why? There's lots of reasons, but let's start with mobile phones.

- 1) The microphone capability of mobile phones varies dramatically. Using a wired or wireless headset almost always sounds better than the built-in mic.
- 2) If you connect to Opal using the phone's mobile browser, the browser is using a set of protocols to capture your phone's microphone and speaker. This protocol can be somewhat unreliable on some phones with some versions of browser and OS. To avoid troubleshooting why the speaker volume doesn't work well or why the microphone level is low, just use a headset. It will almost always work better.
- 3) On iOS, it's not possible for the Safari browser to deliver audio to the phone's earpiece. Output audio will always be delivered to the speaker, meaning you can't hold the phone to your ear. You must hold the phone awkwardly in front of you to speak. Headsets remove this issue. Note: This limitation is present on some Android phones as well.

Finally, whether you're using a computer or your browser, it's likely that the browser will engage an acoustic echo canceller in order to prevent feedback and echo. This will "color" your audio as it is sent to Opal, often resulting in a sound described as "phasey". The only way to assure that no echo canceller is engaged by your system is to use a headset.

A headset will always sound better when calling into Opal.