

# Radio World

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USER REPORT

## ‘Voice Guy’ Touts Heil Sound PR 30,

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**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** I use two different models of Heil microphones in three different situations. I use a PR 30 for on-air on a classic rock station, KXUS(FM), “US 97.” I use the PR 40 in the production studio at the station, and also in my personal studio at home. If you tried to take them away from me, you’d have a fight on your hands.

I’m a voice guy, not an engineer. So, immediately, I was happy when I looked at the PR 30 and 40 and found the absence of modification switches. All I had to do was plug them in and start talking; literally. The sound was so clean it caught me off guard.

These mics have a real “eyebrow-raising” factor the first time you use one. My first thought was, there’s no way I can afford this for my studio. Imagine my amazement when I found out that these mics cost less than the EVs I was using.

### No need to push

I chose the PR 30 for on-air because it’s not as “boomy” on the low end as the PR 40. The PR 30 drops off at about 40 Hz, while the PR 40 drops around 28 Hz. With the way the station EQ is set, the PR 30 cuts right through but still delivers that “warm” sound I want. I also found that these mics require little processing, if any.

I’m much more prone to “less than perfect” mic technique on-air, and the



Dave Hines and His Heil Sound PR 30 and 40.

**In my production studio at the station, the PR 40 is running through a few thousand dollars’ worth of preamps and processors into a Digi-002 rack for ProTools. In my home studio, it’s running directly into an M-Box for ProTools.**

PR 30 is pretty forgiving. I can work it nice and close with far less risk of pop than I’ve gotten from other studio dynamics. The clarity is so good that I never feel the need to push, which helps maintain solid fundamentals.

The rear rejection is outstanding. Simply put, it’s not picking up what I don’t want it to pick up, such as a noisy piece of equipment or a guest’s errant cellphone on the other side of the studio.

Speaking of guests, the pickup pattern is top-notch. I almost never have to remind guests to “scoot in” to the mic. As long as they’re pointed at it, and reasonably close, they’ll be heard.

Also, as you move off the axis away from the “sweet spot,” you only lose gain as opposed to the EQ thinning out. This is actually the first mic where I’ve had a guest comment on how good they thought

they sounded. If I have to move the mic boom, I don't get that distracting rumble.

This thing is "battle-ready" for the studio, so you can concentrate on your content rather than tech problems. I've had the Heil PR 30 in the on-air studio for about a year, and I haven't found any negatives. I put the old RE-27 in an extra production studio and haven't looked back.

I use the Heil PR 40 in two very different setups for the same purpose.

In my production studio at the station, it's running through a few thousand dollars' worth of preamps and processors into a Digi-002 rack for ProTools. In my

home studio, it's running directly into an M-Box for ProTools.

The finished product from either studio is interchangeable. I know it sounds far-fetched, but I've actually done "punch-in" revisions at home for sessions I voiced at work.

The PR 40 has the capability to produce that huge, rich, "voice of God" sound that you rarely can get from a dynamic mic. I'm able to work it in many different ways to have the large palate I need when producing spots or doing imaging voice work.

A danger I've found in having this mic

in the studio is that it's like using an RE-20 with the training wheels off. I guess that's also a blessing, but what I mean is that it's easy to over-process if you start playing around with the audio in post-production. The PR 40 does have a tendency to pop if you work it too close. For me, that's a fair opportunity cost for the clarity and vast range I get.

Bottom line: For the price, you can't put a better mic in your studio than the Heil PR 40.

*For more information, contact Heil Sound at (618) 257-3000 or visit [www.heilsound.com](http://www.heilsound.com).* 