



Technical notes on simultaneous interpretation

Technical Committee.

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The Basics

What equipment does an interpreter need?

- 1 booth per language
- 1 console or interpreter's unit per interpreter
- individual earphones
 - high-quality and lightweight--NOT the kind intended for listening to music or used by journalists
 - Audio frequencies from 125-12,500 Hz
- individual microphone
- 1 outgoing channel per language

What should a good interpreter's control panel or console have?

- Multiple incoming and outgoing channels
 - The selectors for outgoing and incoming channels should be easy to distinguish from each other.
 - Outgoing and incoming channel selectors should be distinct from one another and located in different areas of the panel
- A "cough button", which interpreters should get in the habit of using
- A "microphone-on" light



- an easily visible ring around the mike or a prominent light on the console
- The microphone control should be easily distinguishable from other controls (a different colour, for example)
- Automatic, pre-selected relay
- Tone controls to adjust bass and treble settings according to individual preferences and different speakers' voices
- All controls should operate silently.

The importance of sound

- Good sound quality is essential to successful simultaneous interpretation.
- Poor sound causes unnecessary stress and fatigue.
- Good sound depends on many factors, among others:
 - proper sound equipment that supplies the full range of sound: 125-12,500 Hz
 - good-quality, lightweight earphones
 - room acoustics
 - loudspeakers distributed around the room and volume kept low enough

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