

# Trends in Audio

## For the Hybrid Workplace



Vizual Symphony  
Ideas in Focus

A common challenge for businesses in the hybrid workspace is audio quality.

# Introduction

Since the pandemic, many businesses have moved toward a hybrid office—a flexible workplace model designed to support employees, whether remote, in-office, or both. A common challenge these businesses face is audio quality. Most organizations have the video component down to work optimally, but productivity suffers greatly when the audio is lacking.

Without optimal audio technology, a video meeting can come to a standstill. Top concerns include glitchy audio, muffled audio, and lack of privacy—all issues that significantly impact your employees' ability to work effectively together. Plus, low-quality audio makes your business look unprofessional to clients.

**If anything positive came out of the pandemic, it's that business owners have become increasingly aware of the need for an optimal audio experience for employees during team and client meetings.**

When people had to work from home, they realized how poor the audio was for meetings, and how it led to serious problems. The ultimate goal for conference calls and videos is for teams to work together and with clients seamlessly—as if they are all in the room together. Poor audio prevents this from happening.

In a study, EPOS found that a whopping 88% of business decision-makers believe low-quality audio has caused their companies problems during the past year. They point to these



issues for creating an estimated 21 additional minutes of work each week for the typical employee. For a company that has more than 100 employees, that leads to about \$70k lost revenue per year!

## How can you set up your team for success in conference calls and video meetings?

If you are asking this question, we wrote this guide for you. We will uncover the latest trends in audio for the hybrid workplace. You'll find a checklist to ensure you are arming your employees with everything they need to achieve peak performance, whether they are working from home or in the office. With the best audio solutions, you can promote collaboration and innovation while decreasing the stress level of employees frustrated with audio problems.

Read the following sections to learn:

- The top trends in audio tech for the hybrid workplace
- A checklist to maximize audio functionality for employees
- How to partner with an audio-visual company to get the technology and support you need to make your teams more successful

# 3 Top Trends in Audio Tech for the Hybrid Workspace

With the latest in audio technology, there's no longer an excuse to have sub-par audio for conference calls and video meetings. Whether employees are in the office, working from home, or rotating where they work, it's now easier than ever to implement optimal audio solutions that enable employees to feel like they are in the same room. No glitches. No muffled sound. No speech privacy issues. Just high-quality audio that promotes optimal communication.

Here are three top trends you can leverage to take your hybrid workplace to the next level:

01

**Wireless:** Nobody wants to deal with cords and bulky equipment anymore, especially when working in a hybrid workplace. Your employees need to be able to transition seamlessly from home office to in-office, and that includes their audio technology. Whether they are using headphones, a headset, or a microphone system, wireless is where it's at. They should have all the functionality and high-quality audio they need with a click of a button.

You and your staff shouldn't have to struggle with setting up microphones and equipment or deal with a bunch of wires and cables. Today's click-and-play audio technology gives you streamlined, effortless results.

02

**Sound Masking:** Speech privacy is a primary concern for businesses with a hybrid workplace. Some conversations require privacy, and achieving this becomes more challenging when you have people working in multiple places. Today's open-concept offices also make it difficult to keep private conversations private. For the office, sound masking solutions can solve this problem. Adding a sound masking system to your workspace means people who are not part of the meeting or conversation will not be able to overhear.

For employees outside of the office, microphones with built-in sound masking technology reduce ambient noises that can disrupt virtual meetings.

03

**Standardized Audio Systems:** Standardizing your audio technology creates consistency, cohesiveness and boosts your business's professional image. Everyone who works for your company will have the same audio tech, so you can trust that meetings are fully accessible to all. You won't have to worry that someone will try to hop on a virtual meeting with an old laptop with the worst possible audio quality and microphone. If they work for you, they will have the best and the same as everyone else. In this way, standardizing audio ensures excellence for your company and clients.



# Checklist to Maximize Hybrid Workspace Audio Functionality

As you move forward to invest in better audio technology for your company, there are certain features that will help you get the best results possible. Here's a checklist to guide you:

## Headsets and Headphones

The right headsets and headphones will ensure all members of your team can communicate effectively. Today's latest models are built to last with high-quality materials that provide the ideal balance of comfort and exceptional audio. Your employees will experience speech clarity, sound purity, and the perfect environment for collaboration—whether they are in the office, at home, or at another remote working location.

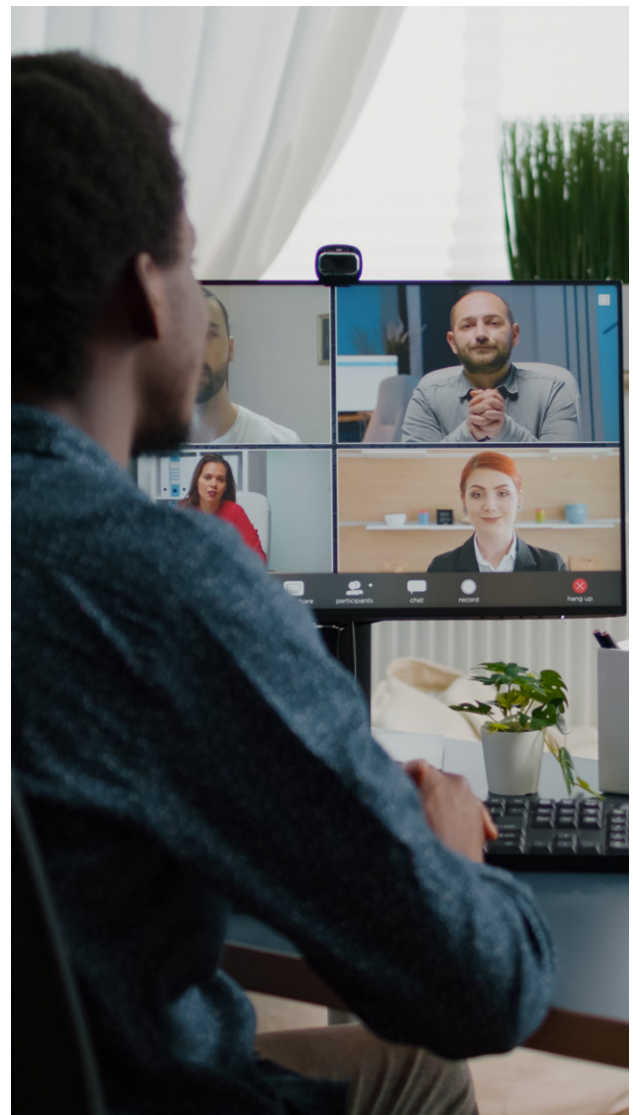
The top features to look for in the perfect headsets or headphones are:

- Noise cancellation
- Wireless
- Long battery life
- High-quality, built-in microphone
- Crystal clear sound quality, including total harmonic distortion and frequency bandwidth and response

## Conference Room Technology for Privacy

Sound masking solutions provide speech privacy, even in open spaces or conference rooms. These solutions do not quiet the speech. Instead, they make it unintelligible from a distance. Your employees may still hear a mumbling sound from a coworker in a meeting, but they will not be able to decipher what is being said.

An effective sound masking system will minimize distractions and improve privacy in too noisy or too quiet offices. It adds subtle background noise that is uniform and almost unnoticeable throughout the whole office space.



# Checklist to Maximize Hybrid Workspace Audio Functionality

## Microphones

Microphones are essential to improving the quality of virtual calls or videos. No more “can you please repeat that?” commentary during the meetings is a relief to everyone involved. Hearing each other doesn’t have to be complicated when you have the right microphones to meet your team’s needs.

Typical conference room microphones pick up random noises, while microphone systems can be a hassle to set up or take up too much space. Here are the qualities to look for in the best microphones to enhance your hybrid workplace meetings:

- ❑ Excellent pick-up range
- ❑ Ability to differentiate between sounds and speakers
- ❑ Freedom of movement without impact to sound quality
- ❑ Wireless and wireless charging
- ❑ Plug and play connectivity
- ❑ Instant usability and user-friendliness
- ❑ Highest quality audio
- ❑ Hands-free

## Customized Audio Solutions

A crucial part of your checklist is to seek out a customized audio solution that’s right for your company’s needs. To do audio right, you need more than cookie-cutter solutions. Find an audio solutions provider who will assess your organization and unique hybrid workplace. They will take an in-depth look at how your company works so you can get the just-right solutions without trial and error or wasting money on systems that don’t address your problems.



# How Vizual Symphony Can Help

If audio issues are keeping your hybrid workplace from being successful, Vizual Symphony has the solution. Our consultative approach addresses and simplifies your audio tech needs for each employee of your business. After an in-depth consultation and discovery process, we will help you identify the audio technology that will enhance collaboration and innovation throughout your company.

At Vizual Symphony, we understand that audio quality can mean the difference between success and failure in your team's virtual communications. It can also have far-reaching consequences that impact the long-term health of your company. So let us help you implement the audio solutions to create an optimal hybrid workplace that enhances your company's productivity and profitability.



**Get in touch with us today to schedule a consultation.**

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