

RECORDING DIALOGUE IN A VEHICLE

If you had a big enough budget, you could shoot and record car scenes using a **process trailer**. The car isn't running, making for a much quieter environment, and the crew doesn't have to be inside the car.



That's fine for the big kids, but until you have major financial backing, you'll probably be shooting in cars that are actually being driven.

A 416 in a zeppelin is just too big to use in a car and it's impossible to get it into the right position without being in the shot. Smaller mics are far more practical.

The **Sanken CUB-01** is an excellent mic for vehicle interiors. It's small and easy to hide, and there's a groove on the back that gives you two options for running the cable.



Scotch Mounting Squares or **double-stick foam tape** are used to mount the mic.

Here are some typical mounting schemes:

On the visors, one for the driver one for the passenger. The red dot is the front of the pickup pattern.



ADVANTAGES: the visor gives extra isolation from the car's vibration

DISADVANTAGES: not well hidden

On the head-liner adjacent to the visor.



cable coming out the front



ADVANTAGES: not as visible

DISADVANTAGES: head-liners in this part of cars are typically fairly rigid, making the mic more susceptible to vibration

On either side of the center console.



ADVANTAGES: well-hidden from a camera in the back seat

DISADVANTAGES: very susceptible to vibration, will pick up a lot of the sound of shifting gears

Small mics with wider pickup patterns than a 416 are very useful. The **Sennheiser 435T** and the **cardiod capsule** in the **AKG Kit** work quite well.

A shockmount is used instead of a zeppelin. If necessary, a foam windscreen can be used on the mic.



Sennheiser 435T



ADVANTAGES: the mic is completely isolated from the car's mechanical vibrations, you can get it closer to the actors' mouths than with the CUB-01s, you can rotate left and right to follow the dialogue.

DISADVANTAGES: more likely to get into the shot, obviously won't work with a bench seat