

## Interphone Pro Sound Review



## Interphone Pro Sound Speaker and Microphone Kit

by Rick K. for webBikeWorld.com

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## Summary

The Interphone Pro Sound audio kit is a set of high-performance speakers and a new microphone for Interphone intercom systems.

The kit works with the current Interphone intercom lineup, including the new [Interphone F5MC \(review\)](#), along with the Interphone XT and S series intercom systems.

The Pro Sound kit speakers are surrounded by specially molded inserts that flush-fit into specific motorcycle helmets.

This gives the larger-sized speakers a flush fit with a comfortable feel inside the motorcycle helmet.

The molded inserts fit precisely in the helmet to locate the speakers in the ideal location for best sound reproduction and volume, something difficult to achieve when fitting loose speakers into the helmet ear pockets.

The Pro Sound kits are currently available for the [Schuberth C3 \(review\)](#) and [Schuberth C3 Pro \(review\)](#), along with the [Shoei Neotec \(review\)](#), the [Shoei GT-Air \(review\)](#) and the [Shoei J-Cruise \(review\)](#) helmets.

The sound quality of the Interphone Pro Sound kit is superb, with outstanding bass response, clarity and greatly improved volume over the already-good standard Interphone intercom speakers. The upgrade is well worth the cost for Interphone intercom system owners and its availability will surely convert owners of other brands.

## Background

I could easily make the argument that a speaker system like the new Interphone Pro Sound audio kit should be standard on every motorcycle intercom sold today.

But from Interphone's point of view, I can also understand wanting to sell an "audiophile" speaker system as an optional accessory to help the bottom line. Either way, I'm glad they did it because the Pro Sound audio kit brings a new level of enjoyment to using a motorcycle intercom system.

When you think about it, a motorcycle helmet is (or should be) a perfect sound chamber for listening to music or other audio streams. It isolates the wearer from the external environment; it has sound-deadening material like a professional sound booth; and the speakers are more or less forced into the correct placement on the wearer's head.

So why haven't the intercom system manufacturers offered better sound quality, either standard or as an upgrade? Granted, some of the latest motorcycle intercom systems have good quality speaker systems, but it's all relative. Even a cheap set of headphones will pretty much outperform any intercom speaker pair.

Granted, some motorcyclists will be perfectly happy with the excellent sound quality in the current top-of-the-line Interphone F5MC intercom system. But for that certain percentage who are always searching for more and better speaker response, look no further.

The Interphone Pro Sound audio kit is a \$69.99 list/\$59.99 street accessory (€59.99 list price in the UK) for Interphone intercom systems and it gives an immediately noticeable improvement in sound quality, volume, bass response and comfort.

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Interphone Pro Sound kit for the Schuberth C3 and C3 Pro (L) and for Shoei helmets (R).

### The Interphone Pro Sound Audio Kit

I've asked Cellular Italia (dba Interphone) if they can provide some of the technical specifications for the speakers used in the Pro Sound kit, but it's August and those civilized Europeans are all on holiday, so I'll report back if and when I learn anything.

The kit is currently available for the Schuberth C3/C3 Pro and the Shoei helmets listed in the previous section. I have a kit mounted in the Schuberth C3 Pro and I have a Shoei Pro Sound kit also; the differences are only in the molded ear pieces that fit easily and smoothly into the helmets.

The reason the kit is helmet-specific is to perfectly locate the speakers in the helmet and for the rider. The mounting plate that holds the speaker is designed with a large, wide and smooth inside to make wearing the Pro Sound kit more comfortable, but it also helps to locate the speakers in the right place to get the best sound reproduction.

In fact, this is one of the biggest problems with basic motorcycle intercom speaker systems. It's very difficult to ideally locate the speakers inside a helmet, which then results in owner complaints for low volume and poor bass response. I'm guessing that if the kit becomes popular, Interphone will make versions for more premium helmet makes and models.



Interphone Pro Sound audio kit cutaway as fitted to a Shoei Neotec.

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**Pro Sound Speaker Differences**

The speakers used in the Pro Sound kit are completely different from the speakers supplied with the Interphone intercom systems (illustrated in the comparison photo below) and they are also different from most of the other intercom speakers I've seen. They measure a massive 41 mm across and 6 mm thick.

In fact, these are "real" speakers of the type that can be found in a set of over-the-ear stereo headphones. The membrane actually moves when the music plays, just like a home stereo speaker set and they have better response than those quarter-sized disks usually included in a motorcycle intercom set.

The combination of the larger speakers and the molded mounting system provides a much better sound experience than any standard intercom system speakers.

The molded plastic inserts that hold the speakers actually make wearing a Pro Sound-equipped helmet more comfortable than with standard intercom speakers, which always seem to press on the ears of my too-wide head, no matter how deeply molded the speaker cavities are in the EPS liner.

The Pro Sound molded sections are smooth and comfortable and make you wonder why all intercom speakers don't have something similar.



Interphone F5MC standard speaker (L) compared to the Pro Sound speaker size.

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- **Interphone Pro Sound Kit for Shoei Helmets**

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**Sound Quality**

First of all, the volume levels that can be reached with the Pro Sound speakers using the Interphone F5MC intercom is amazing. For the first time, I actually have to set the volume on something less than max.

Can there ever be too much volume in a motorcycle intercom speaker? I'm sure some of you will say no, but first try the Pro Sound kit and let me know!

The other thing I noticed right away is the bass response. In most/all motorcycle intercom speakers, bass response goes from non-existent to pathetic. The Pro Sound kit has excellent bass and I can actually hear the bass tracks for the first time in a motorcycle helmet.

Granted, we're still not talking [Bowers & Wilkins P7](#) levels here, but we're also not talking 400 bucks either. It's all relative and sound quality is a highly personal thing, but after reviewing motorcycle intercom systems since Bluetooth first became available, I am confident that the Interphone Pro Sound audio kit has the best quality, bass response and volume levels of any stock or accessory speaker system we have tried.

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The Interphone Pro Sound audio kit for Shoei helmets includes the Shoei mesh ear pocket lining.



Close-up of the business side of a Schubert Pro Sound speaker.



Rear view of a Pro Sound speaker.

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### In the Kit

The Interphone Pro Sound kit is pretty simple. It comes with the two speakers mounted in the helmet-specific ear moldings. Also included is a new style microphone that seems to improve voice sound quality...although that may be due to the speakers. All of this replaces the speaker and mic system that comes standard with the Interphone intercom kits.

The Pro Sound system attaches with the same type of Interphone connector to the Interphone F5MC or other Interphone intercom modules.

And finally, Interphone throws in an extra intercom module helmet mount with the Pro Sound kit. The extra helmet mount is included so owners can add the Pro Sound system to their Schuberth or Shoei helmet and simply swap the intercom module back and forth from another helmet using the stock Interphone speakers.

The extra helmet mounts alone cost \$19.99 but they're included in the Pro Sound kit, making it more of a bargain and giving you the two helmet choice.

### Installation

The Pro Sound system is easy to install. The back of the speaker molding has a thin strip of 3M double-sided sticky tape and you remove the helmet cheek pads, locate the Pro Sound speakers and wiring, stick 'em in and that's it. Since the speakers and the molding surround is specifically designed for the Schuberth C3/Pro and Shoei helmets, it's a perfect match.

The standard new-style type of Interphone intercom connector is attached, so you can pop it on your F5MC or other Interphone intercom and away you go.

The new boom microphone included in the Pro Sound kit is mounted on a high-tech-look thin plastic arm that slides in behind the cheek pad and attaches via sticky or hook-and-loop, depending on the helmet and the helmet-specific Pro Sound kit.

There's not much to the installation and the Pro Sound kit for Shoei helmets even includes the nice Shoei-style mesh liner over the inside of the speaker molding so that everything looks original.



Interphone Pro Sound audio kit boom mic.





Interphone Pro Sound audio kit boom mic, business side.




The Interphone F5MC intercom fitted to a Shoei helmet.

## Conclusion

If you own an [Interphone F5MC \(review\)](#) or one of the Interphone XT or S series intercoms and you want what the highest quality, loudest volume and best bass response motorcycle intercom speakers currently available, get yourself one of the new Interphone Pro Sound audio kits.

If you don't own an Interphone intercom, the availability of the Pro Sound kit is a very good reason to become a convert!

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wBW Review: Interphone Pro Sound Audio Kit	
<b>Manufacturer:</b> <a href="#">Cellular Italia S.p.A.</a>	<b>List Price:</b> \$69.99 USD or £59.99 <b>Available From:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Pro Sound Kit Schubert at Twisted Throttle \$59.99</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Pro Sound Kit Shoei at Twisted Throttle \$59.99</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Pro Sound Kit Schubert at CompAcc \$59.99</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Pro Sound Kit Shoei at CompAcc \$59.99</a></li> </ul>
<b>Colors:</b> Matte Black	<b>Made In:</b> Philippines
<b>Review Date:</b> August 2014	<b>Star Rating (1-5):</b> ★★★★★
<b>NOTE:</b> The webBikeWorld intercom evaluators always wear properly fitted ear plugs while riding during the intercom evaluations and this is reflected in these opinions on sound quality and speaker volume. Your experience may and probably will differ. Always wear high-quality, correctly fitted ear plugs when riding a motorcycle ( <a href="#">more</a> ).	

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