

## **Elite Series FAQs**

### **What colors are available for my Elite Series monitors?**

Standard colors for Elite Series monitors are beige, light brown (tan), medium brown, dark brown and clear.

Other colors and finishes are available. Additional charges may apply. Westone offers their Custom Art Shop which allows them to create monitors with virtually any possible look on the faceplate. Finally, your monitors can look as great as they sound!

Additional customization is available subject to the constraints of the anatomy of each individual human ear and the processes used to build in-ear musicians monitors. Pricing and turnaround time for extreme custom orders will be determined on a case by case basis.

### **What are the advantages of custom fit in-ear musicians' monitors over universal fit in-ear musicians' monitors?**

In a word... "Fit!" The ES1 and the ES2 are custom made to exactly fit the outer and inner parts of your ear. They are designed to fit flush with the outer portion of your ear to be less obtrusive (they don't stick out), and to provide a more secure fit.

The UM1 and UM2 universal fit in-ear musicians monitors have been ergonomically designed to fit most anyone, but the monitor will orient itself differently in each person's ear. As a result, when wearing a universal fit monitor, most people will find it to be more obtrusive and not quite as secure as a custom fit monitor. The UM1 and the UM2 are perfect for bands that have rotating members, for musicians who are on a budget or for session players that need ear monitors but don't have a pair of their own.

Also, Elite Series monitors are available in more colors than the Universal Series. Westone's Custom Art Shop is only available for the Elite Series custom fit monitors.

### **What is the difference between the ES1, the ES2 and the ES3? What situations do they fit best?**

The ES1 is the entry-level completely custom musicians monitor with a heat sensitive canal portion, which softens as it warms to your body temperature. The ES1 is a single driver (speaker) ear monitor with a removable cable that allows it

to be replaced if damaged. It is ideal for budget-sensitive musicians who want a completely custom monitor. The ES1 is great for vocalists because of its flat, crystal clear response. Horn players prefer the ES1 because of the way it handles their instrument's frequencies, giving it a more natural sound.

The ES2 is the professional level dual driver (two speaker) custom monitor. Like the ES1, it is completely custom with the same "body softening" canal and replaceable cable. Bass players and drummers love the low-end response, but vocalists and guitar players rave about the high frequencies they get from the ES2. With its crisp highs and incredible lows, the ES2 gives you the consummate performance that you expect from a professional level musicians monitor.

The ES3 is the newest member of the Elite Series family. Made to the same exacting standards as the ES1 and ES2, the ES3 offers what no other in-ear musicians monitor on the market does. Designed with guitar players and vocalists in mind, the ES3 utilizes a true three-way crossover that brings to life the mid-range that has been missing from IEMs without sacrificing the lows and the highs. Vocalists will find that, when compared to other IEMs, the ES3 improves vocal range clarity. With the ES3 in the line-up, there is finally an IEM to meet every taste and style.

### **How can I purchase a pair of Elite Series in-ear musicians monitors?**

Because impressions of your ears are required to make the custom earmolds for your Elite Series in-ear musicians monitors, you need to visit HearWell Audiology to have your impressions taken.

## **Universal Series FAQs**

### **What colors are available for my Universal Series monitors?**

The UMI Universal Series Monitors are currently available in beige, brown, black and clear.

At this time, the UM2 is only available in clear.

### **What are some benefits to purchasing universal monitors over custom monitors?**

While a pair of custom monitors or custom sleeves for the UM1 will provide the best comfort and fit, universal monitors are actually better for some applications, particularly church praise bands and worship teams, and any other situation where band members may be switched out frequently. Universal monitors tend to

work better for these occasions because the same monitors can be used for new band members by simply changing the foam tips.

### **Is there a way to upgrade my universal monitors with a custom sleeve?**

Certainly. A custom earmold has been designed to replace the foam tips that come with the UM1 and UM2. Impressions will be taken at HearWell Audiology

## **General Monitor FAQs**

### **What are the uses for ear monitors?**

Custom and Universal monitors are superb at reproducing music and speech with a high degree of fidelity and clarity. They are great for:

- Musicians
- Ipod and MP3 players
- Personal Computers

### **What is a driver?**

Simply put, a driver is a small speaker. Westone uses balanced armature drivers for our in-ear musicians monitors. The terms driver and speaker are interchangeable.

### **What is the difference between a "dual driver" and a "single driver" monitor?**

The single driver models like Westone's UM1 and ES1 have one driver/speaker in each earpiece. This one driver/speaker reproduces the full range of frequencies.

With a dual driver design like Westone's UM2 or ES2, the incoming signal is split by a crossover that is built into each monitor. The crossover splits the frequencies so that each driver receives only those frequencies it is designed to reproduce. This allows each driver to be specifically selected for the best performance in a specific frequency range.

Most listeners who experience our single driver units are surprised at how great they sound... until they hear the dual driver units.

## **How can I tell the difference between "dual driver" and "single driver" monitors?**

The single driver units have the number "1" in them. For example, UM1 = Universal Monitor, Single Driver. ES1 = Elite Series Monitor, Single Driver. Likewise, the dual driver units have the number "2" in them. UM2 = Universal Monitor, Dual Driver. ES2 = Elite Series Monitor, Dual Driver.

## **Who needs a "dual driver" and who needs a "single driver" monitor?**

Westone's single or dual driver monitors can be used by any member of a band. Some players prefer one model over another based on the instrument they play. For example, we have some vocalists and horn players who prefer the single driver designs, while bass players and drummers seem to have a clear preference for the dual driver designs.

## **How do in-ear musicians monitors protect your hearing?**

All of Westone's monitors are designed to reduce ambient sound. While no hearing protection product can eliminate all sound, Westone's in-ear musicians monitors are designed to reduce ambient sound by 20 to 25dB. This means stage noise, from the guitarist's blaring amp to the pounding of the drums, can now be significantly reduced. The benefit to you, the musician, is that you can now have more control over the volume at which you hear your performance.

It is generally acknowledged in hearing healthcare circles that the average person can be exposed to about 85dB for eight hours per day with little or no risk to their hearing. Your safe exposure time is cut in half for every 5dB increase in volume. If the volume goes up to 90dB, the safe exposure time is four hours. At 95dB, it is two hours. Some bands can be well in excess of 105 or even 110dB. This means that safe exposure time is now counted in minutes instead of hours -- 105dB is 30 minutes, while 110dB reduces safe exposure time down to 15 minutes.

In-ear musicians monitors allow you to reduce ambient sound so that you can increase your safe exposure time.

## **What are the benefits for the musician using in-ear musicians monitors?**

One of the major benefits of in-ear musicians monitors is hearing protection. A fully occluding musicians monitor (an ear monitor that reduces ambient sound) such as Westone's ES1, ES2, UM1 and UM2, can provide up to 20dB of attenuation. But remember, the ear level sound volume of the monitor itself is at

your discretion. It goes without saying that lower volume levels are better for the health of your ears and your long-term career as a musician.

Another benefit is the increased fidelity that comes from having your mix at ear level. You can now hear what you want and need as you perform on stage, without the wash of noise from standard floor monitors and the back wash coming from the front of house speakers. This helps to improve your performance, and who doesn't want to perform better night after night. You want people to hear your music the way you intended it to be heard, that's why you're a musician.

**Are there any personal testimonials from professionals that use musician monitors?**

**You bet! Go to Westone's testimonial page:**  
<http://www.westone.com/music/testimonials.html>