

600 MHz FAQs



Given all the confusion and misinformation regarding the 600 MHz transition, Audio-Technica has compiled this list of Frequently Asked Questions to help our customers understand and prepare for the transition. If you don't see your question below, or would like additional information, please contact our [Audio Solutions Department](#) for assistance.

Q: What brought about these changes to the 600 MHz band?

A: In 2012, Congress authorized the FCC to use incentive auctions as a means to free up spectrum in the 600 MHz band for wireless broadband use. Bidding in the broadcast television spectrum incentive auction concluded on March 30, 2017. On April 13, 2017, the [FCC announced the results](#) of the auction and the repacking of the TV spectrum. One result of this auction and repack is that the use of wireless microphone systems in the 600 MHz band will eventually be phased out. For additional information, please visit the [FCC's Broadcast Incentive Auction](#) page.

Q: If I have a 600 MHz wireless system, do I need to switch to a new system immediately?

A: No. The FCC will implement the repacking of the spectrum through a staged rollout, beginning in the fall of 2018 and ending in summer of 2020. The earliest date that you will need to stop operating in the 600 MHz band is September 14, 2018, but, depending on your location, you may be able to use your system longer than that. (You can view the [Transition Schedule](#) on the FCC's website, and see which TV stations and regions of the country will be affected by each of the FCC's 10 repack phases by viewing the Phase Maps at ([RabbitEars.info](#).) So, there is no need to panic. You still have plenty of time to consider your options and budget for a new system that will best suit your needs, while continuing to use the 600 MHz system in which you are already invested.

Q: Even if I don't need to switch to a new system immediately, why should I wait?

A: There are several reasons it may be beneficial not to rush into a new system. As mentioned above, your existing 600 MHz system will continue to function until at least September 14, 2018. It is possible, even, that your system's functioning will improve as more users exit the band and it becomes less crowded. You already have money invested in your current 600 MHz system, so it makes sense to maximize that investment.

Another reason to wait is that new, innovative wireless systems are coming out all the time. A year from now you could have a broader selection to choose from, with several manufacturers likely releasing new or updated products designed to replace the very systems affected by this spectrum transition. In the meantime, you can budget for a new system so you are better prepared to make that investment when the time comes. Again, there is no need to rush matters and incur expenses you haven't planned for.

Q: What has Audio-Technica done to address the 600 MHz transition?

A: Since introducing our first wireless microphone system in 1986, we have been a leader in developing innovative products for the wireless market. Over the past several years, in response to the incentive auctions and repacks (first in the 700 MHz band and now in the 600 MHz band), Audio-Technica has introduced several new systems that operate outside the TV bands, such as the various models of our System 10 digital wireless (operating at 2.4 GHz), our 6000 Series high density wireless (900 MHz), and the GTX Series Ultra-Wideband wireless (6-10 GHz), which is produced by our affiliate [Alteros](#).

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Q: How long will Audio-Technica continue to sell wireless systems that operate in the 600 MHz band?

A: We have discontinued all of our 600 MHz wireless systems in North America, effective April 21, 2017.

Q: Which Audio-Technica wireless systems are affected by this change?

A: 1800 Series (D-Band), 2000 Series (D-Band), 3000 Series (D-Band), 4000 Series (D-Band), 5000 Series (D-Band), M2 (M-Band), M3 (M-Band).

Q: Which Audio-Technica wireless systems are not affected by this change?

A: 1800 Series (C-Band), 2000 Series (I-Band), 3000 Series (C-Band and I-Band), 4000 Series (C-Band), 5000 Series (C-Band), M2 (L-Band), M3 (L-Band), all System 10 digital wireless products, 6000 Series (S-Band), and the Alteros GTX Series.

Q: When the time comes, which type of system should I switch to?

A: This will depend on your intended applications and your budget. For some users, it may make sense to move to a UHF system that operates below the 600 MHz band. Others may benefit from avoiding the TV bands altogether and switching to a system such as our 2.4 GHz System 10. We recommend contacting our [Audio Solutions Department](#) to discuss your particular needs. One of our audio specialists will be happy to help you find the system that's right for you.

Q: Will Audio-Technica help wireless users transition to a new system?

A: Yes. We will provide assistance, including special incentives, as the cutoff date draws closer. Look for more details about this in the future.

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