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Subject: Re: Stylus Inspection

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 14 Jan 2019 02:32:24 GMT

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Comparison of the two styli at 2000x magnification:

Audio Technica AT20 Stylus Tip (2000x magnification)

Audio Technica AT20 Stylus Tip (2000x, rolling focus)

Audio Technica AT20 Stylus Tip (2000x, rolling focus with extra contrast)

"Bliss" ATN20 Stylus Tip (2000x magnification)

"Bliss" ATN20 Stylus Tip (2000x, rolling focus)

"Bliss" ATN20 Stylus Tip (2000x, rolling focus with extra contrast)

I think the 1000x microscope lens worked best for me. The 2000x was a little too much and the 100x was a little too little.

The USB microscopes were definitely not the highest-quality units available. I think probably some really good images could be captured with a better quality 1000x 'scope. With a high-quality digital microscope, one could possibly capture images good enough to be used to render 3D models of styli from each manufacturer, and catalog them all for comparison. But that's beyond the scope of this discussion. The goal of this thread was to be able to identify worn stylus with an inexpensive microscope and I think we've been able to do that.

The Audio Technical stylus is used, but doesn't appear to be worn. I still plan to view both styli with side-mounted lighting and to look for the "hot spots" on either side as prescribed by Shure. But for now, just viewing the styli with the built-in camera lighting, I could still see the tips well enough to draw the conclusion that neither were excessively worn.

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## File Attachments

- 1) [ATN20\\_2000.jpg](#), downloaded 481 times
- 2) [ATN20\\_2000.gif](#), downloaded 526 times

- 3) [ATN20\\_2000\\_extra\\_contrast.gif](#), downloaded 509 times
  - 4) [ATN20\\_Bliss\\_2000.jpg](#), downloaded 462 times
  - 5) [ATN20\\_Bliss\\_2000.gif](#), downloaded 478 times
  - 6) [ATN20\\_Bliss\\_2000\\_extra\\_contrast.gif](#), downloaded 446 times
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