

Sontronics STC-2 MICROPHONE

When recording in your home studio its important to get the mics right. Sontronics STC-2 might just be that must have purchase...

PRICE
£165.00
 incl. VAT



This large-diaphragm cardioid condenser mic features a one-inch capsule, so let's see what it can offer. The STC-2 certainly looks the part and it's supplied in its own foam-lined carry case with a quality shock mount. Available in black or silver, the construction of the mic is of a high quality and features a low-cut filter and -10dB pad switches to help you get the best from your recording.

The low-cut filter simply reduces the output of the lower frequencies captured by the microphone. This is particularly useful when the proximity effect is causing a problem, or where vibrations are being picked up. It is also very useful when the source you are recording has little or no low frequency output – in this case the filter can be employed to add definition to your recording while limiting unwanted noise.

A -10dB attenuation switch, otherwise known as a pad, is used to attenuate or reduce the sensitivity of the microphone, especially in cases when a very loud sound source could overload the preamplifier and cause distortion. For example, a wind or brass instrument played directly at the microphone may well overload the preamplifier, so using the pad would attenuate the level to a usable level and ensure you record the true

characteristics of the instrument itself.

Sontronics spec the STC-2 with a one-inch capsule and the mic is designed for recording vocals, spoken word and acoustic instruments. Powered from your desk's phantom power 48V through the three-pin XLR, it is also easy to hook up. The supplied spider suspension mount will certainly help to isolate this sensitive microphone from any transient noise traveling through the mic stand from the floor, they even supply a spare set of spider bands.

For those of you not familiar with phantom power, always ensure the power is turned off before connecting or disconnecting the mic. These are

very sensitive units and can blow if you don't look after them.

At this price, the STC-2 is very good value for money, as the microphone's build quality makes it feel you should be paying much more. As condenser microphones go, the STC-2 does not disappoint. The evenly balanced frequency response delivers a defined low-end and a very detailed top-end. The smooth high-frequency roll-off, ensures a natural presence to your recordings, accurately capturing your voice. The sound is consistent and transparent and would certainly make a great addition to any small studio set-up. **IDJ**

Words: Paul Morrissey

FEATURES

- Large-diaphragm cardioid condenser microphone
- Response: 20Hz - 20kHz
- Sensitivity: 20mV/Pa -32dB ±2dB (0dB = 1V/Pa 1,000Hz)
- Polar pattern: Cardioid
- Impedance: ≤200 Ohms
- Equivalent noise level: 18dB (A-weighted)
- Max SPL (for 0.5% THD @1,000Hz): 125dB
- Power source: Phantom power 48V ±4V
- Connector: Three-pin XLR
- Included hard case and shock mount

ALTERNATIVES

Also worth checking out is the Audio-Technica AT2035 and AKG Perception 220.

PROS & CONS



Flat response, price, included case and shock mount

None

VERDICT

- The sound is smooth and balanced and good value for your money.