



Two of the new NT2 mics...

FutureMusic
PLATINUM
AWARD

CONDENSER

Rode NT2-A

The Aussie big seller gets a revamp inside and out. Trevor Curwen takes it for a Rode test...

DETAILS

RODE NT2-A MULTI-PATTERN CONDENSER

PRICE £269

CONTACT

Tel: 0208 9625000
Web: www.rodemicphones.com

TECH SPEC

Frequency Response: 20Hz-20KHz
Sensitivity: 36dB re 1 Volt/Pascal (16mV @ 94 dB SPL) ± 2dB
Polar Pattern: Multi-Cardioid, Omni, Figure-of-8
Output Impedance: 200 Ohms
Equivalent Noise Level: 7dBa SPL
Max SPL: 147dB (@1% THD into 1 kOhm), 157dB with pad at 10 dB
Dynamic Range: 140dB S/N 87dB
Power Requirement: 48V phantom power
Connector: XLR
Weight: 0.7kg
Size: 205 x 50mm

RODE'S NT2 HAS been a popular mic over the last ten years, but the Australian company have now replaced it with the NT2-A. The NT2-A not only looks different from its predecessor, it also has an increased feature set and is made in Australia rather than China.

The capsule in the NT2-A is the same as that in the K2 valve mic. Being a dual-diaphragm design, the NT2-A is multiple patterned, so it can be switched from cardioid to work in omni and figure-of-eight modes. A three-way switch brings in a bass cut at 80Hz or 40Hz; another brings in 5dB and 10dB pads.

The mic comes with a soft-zipped pouch and just a mic clip, rather than a full-blown suspension cradle, which is an optional extra at £59.

On the stand

While a suspension cradle would be the ideal mounting method to isolate the mic from shock, the mic clip is practical. The mic sits firmly in the clip once the knurled metal tightening ring at the base of

the body is tightened, and you can place it securely at any angle.

The NT2-A is an extremely quiet mic, with a low level of self noise, making it useful when miking quieter sources. At the other end of the noise scale, it can handle 147dB (157dB with pad), taking whatever you throw at it in its stride.

Then there's the choice of patterns. With cardioid selected, the mic achieves a natural, full-bodied vocal sound, well-balanced across the frequency spectrum, with a useful degree of upper-mid presence and top-end airiness. The frequency response graph shows a gentle rise in the response above about 3kHz, which accounts for this subtle enhancement of vocals. It also produces quality results when recording, say, acoustic guitar and hand-held percussion.

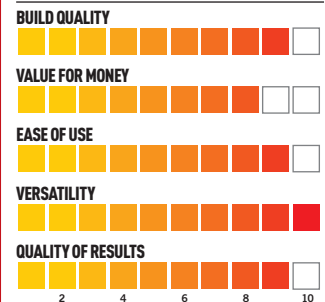
The results with figure-of-eight mode differ little to that in cardioid mode, and are ideal for recording a pair of backing singers on either side of the mic, while the sound opens up when switching to omni mode, picking up more of the room and

allowing for a more natural sound for close miked sources.

Conclusion

Many people buy just one condenser mic, and there are plenty of budget cardioid-only mics about. But if you're only buying one condenser mic, it makes sense to spend a little more and have the versatility of a multi-pattern mic on tap. And in that regard, the Rode NT2-A is well worth the extra outlay. **FM**

VERDICT RODE NT2-A



A condenser with a 'swiss army knife' versatility, suitable for all sorts of recording tasks.

