



Violet The Globe condenser mic

After a brief hiatus, Violet returns with a range of mics. **Jon Musgrave** checks out The Globe

DETAILS

PRICE £979
(including shockmount)

CONTACT

Web: www.violet-design.com
www.dolphinmusic.co.uk

TECH SPEC

Large capsule cardioid condenser with class-A transformerless output
Capsule: 1" dual-diaphragm true electrostatic
Frequency response: 20Hz to 20kHz
Output impedance: 50 Ohms
Load impedance: 1,000 Ohms
Sensitivity: 21mV/Pa (1kHz into 1kOhm load)
Equivalent noise: 6dB (A-weighted)
Maximum SPL: 134dB (0.5% THD into 1kOhm)
Current consumption: <2mA
Weight: 350g
Dimensions: 220 x 44mm

WHEN WE REVIEWED Violet's The Dolly last year we wondered whether business

politics might frustrate its progress. Well, they did slightly, but thanks to Dolphin Music, Violet now has a new UK distributor and a new price list. This means you lucky people once again have access to some of Europe's most individual and carefully crafted mics.

At £979, The Globe is one of the more expensive models Violet makes, although nothing like the few grand you'll need to get your hands on its flagship valve mic (The Flamingo). It's a dual-diaphragm solid-state condenser, with a fixed cardioid pattern. Like most of its mics, simplicity is the key, so you won't find much in the way of pads or roll-off switches. Also consistent with its other models, styling

contributes considerably to the overall impression of the mic. In the case of The Globe, this extends from the cradle mounting the capsule grille to the integrated shockmount, which at first glance you may not even spot. In keeping with the company branding, the whole thing slips into a plush, deep-purple wooden box.

Luxury goods

In recent times we've become accustomed to some pretty high quality stuff at very reasonable prices. But I have to say the overall finish on The Globe and its packaging surpasses anything I've seen at this price range before. The cube-shaped box it comes in has added padding for safety, and the attention to detail continues with the three transit screws that hold the capsule in place. The in-built shock

mount is a curious design, although discreet, which I like, and about as far removed from a traditional mic cradle as it's possible to get. I suppose the only design point that may catch out some unsuspecting buyers is that the mic stand thread is small-gauge.

With The Globe mounted and plugged up it's time to get an idea of sound. The blurb in the manual doesn't give too much away, although it does refer to the warm, classic sound of vintage studio mics. It's certainly not super-bright like some, but there's a definite airiness to the sound, which I guess probably comes from the slight boost at 12kHz. In the lower end there is some proximity, but not loads, even a few inches from the capsule, and the pick-up pattern isn't too wide.

But specifics aside, I have to say I'm stunned by how open The Globe sounds. Even up close at high levels it still sounds really fantastic. A quick look at the specs also reveals it to be very quiet (7dB A-weighted), which means it would be great for foley or voiceover work. In use on female vocals and acoustic guitar it sounds amazing, and although it's not as highly coloured as some of the vintage mics available in this price bracket, that may not be a bad thing.

Conclusion

The Globe is a brilliant mic for the money. Sure, it isn't cheap at just under a grand, but it oozes all-round quality, from its construction right through to its sound.

Violet's mic styling may not be to everyone's taste, but it's certainly unique and a lot less dull than the more traditional offerings out there.

The only downside I can think of with going for a mic at this price is that you'll want to couple it with a posh pre-amp, and that's going to mean even more cash. Oh well, you can't take it with you! **FM**

VERDICT VIOLET THE GLOBE

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Pricey, but beautifully made with a silky smooth sound.