

Samson G Track Interface | £90

Samson raise the stakes with a new USB microphone model with a trick up its sleeve. **Jono Buchanan** sings and plays to the G Track...

WHAT IS IT?

A USB microphone and audio interface in, er, microphone form for simultaneously recording vocals and/or instruments

CONTACT

Who: Sound Technology
Tel: +44 (0)1462 480000
Web: samsontech.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Very easy to use
- 2 All cables and table-stand included
- 3 More than reasonable sound quality

SPECS

Frequency Response: 20Hz ~ 16kHz

Polar Pattern: Super-cardioid

Element Type: Back Condenser type

Diaphragm thickness: 3 microns

Sensitivity: -40 +/- 3dB/Pa

SPL: 132dB

Dimensions:

73mm x 160.5mm

Weight:

0.626 kg

As a singer-songwriter, you'll be used to inspiration striking at the strangest times. If you're in the business of recording your ideas for fear that they might evaporate as

quickly as they surface, you'll be after a compact, simple to operate device to capture your ideas. Interestingly, our gargantuan music industry doesn't really provide too many solutions for such musicians. Sure, there are desks and DAWs and microphones aplenty out there but not so many of these offer the immediacy required when the creative juices start flowing. Many singers I work with carry dictaphones or something similar which allow instantaneous ideas capture but these sacrifice quality in the process.

Samson have attempted to fill this hole with the G Track, a USB microphone and audio interface which allows line level capture simultaneously with a microphone signal, while also offering in-built monitoring via headphones. Remarkably, all of this functionality is built into a unit that looks, at first glance, like a humble condenser microphone.

Deceptive appearances

The design is attractive and pleasingly 'unflashy', as G Track is delivered in classic 'studio grey'. However, as you'd expect for such a chameleon product, it features a few knobs and switches you wouldn't tend to find on a microphone.

Below the grille, there are three dials and two switches. The dials allow control of the incoming volume (remember, this is an audio interface), plus gain adjust dials for the microphone and line level sources. The way G Track works is that it allows two signals to be recorded simultaneously.

These can either be a microphone plus an instrument or, if you're

not singing, two line level sources, such as electric guitar and bass. All the cables you'd need for these scenarios are included, as is a table stand which mounts the microphone on any flat surface, neatly removing the need for a mic stand. Connection is made via USB and is driver-free – this is a truly plug and play device.

To record, simply select which mode you want from the 'Inst/Mic' or 'Line' switch, hit record and go. The three dials on the front allow you to choose input and output levels and they can be 'parked' by pressing, meaning they don't protrude during recording sessions. An LED indicates the presence of USB in green and switches to red if your input levels get too hot. While you are recording, you can listen just to the returning computer audio, or a combination of this, with mono or stereo live audio monitoring, via the Direct Monitor switch. The only operational consideration I encountered was the need to 'remind' G Track that I'd set low latency within my DAW, a setting which G Track initially ignored. Thereafter, the operation was all relatively straightforward.

Conclusion

The G Track is a clever piece of kit, offering everything required for a singer-songwriter recording session in the most hassle free way imaginable.

At this price, as you might expect, audio quality isn't up there with units which perform dedicated tasks in the areas G Track covers but that isn't really the point. Here is a microphone, line level audio interface and monitoring solution from which you can capture ideas, direct to your laptop, in a trice. It responds at the speed of your creativity and for those attempting to make the hits of tomorrow in no time at all, it could be just the ticket. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT

BUILD



VALUE



EASE OF USE



VERSATILITY



RESULTS



The ultimate 'ideas capturer' for singer-songwriters and hands-on musicians? Very possibly.

