

AKG D112 MKII



£129 For many years one of the 'go-to' kick drum mics for live and studio use, the D112 has had a refresh. Can it be improved upon?

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Look around any pub or club over the last 20 years and the chances are that you would have seen that distinctive egg-shape poking out from the drum kit's bass drum port. Get up closer, and it was likely you'd have recognised that distinctive flash of green that marked out an AKG D112 in the kick drum.

AKG's microphone has been one of the stalwart mics that sound engineers reach for. Its rugged design and tailored frequency curve meant that it was always relatively easy to get a good sound out of the box.

So, when you have created an 'industry standard' microphone, what do you do next? Well, if you're pioneering Austrian audio manufacturers AKG, you discontinue it - and then re-release it with improvements as the D112 MkII. So, has AKG thrown the baby out with the bathwater, or will evolution prove revolutionary?

Build

The MkII preserves the classic silver grille with green flash, and conventional egg shape, but the most distinctive change in the new version of the D112 is the addition of an integrated mic-stand mount. Users of the classic MkI will recall the microphone had a shaft that terminated in a standard XLR connection but which meant from time-to-time the microphone could slip. The MkII retains the standard connection but now includes a threaded mic-stand mount which means the MkII will fit on any standard threaded fitting. An adaptor from 5/8 to 3/8 is included in the box. AKG claim that the MkII can handle more than 160dB SPL without distortion thanks to the open back design, and the rugged grille means that it can cope with life on the road.

One of the D112's design features that has been carried over into the new model is a large diaphragm that has a very low resonance frequency that can deliver response below 100Hz.

Hands On

The defining feature of the original D112 microphone is the tailored response curve that means it is effectively pre-EQ'd when plugged into the desk. Thankfully this is carried over in the new model - which essentially means that it's as close to 'plug



LOW END RESPONSE

D112 MkII has a large diaphragm with a very low frequency that can deliver response below 100Hz

OPEN BACK DESIGN

The MkII can handle more than 160dB SPL without distortion thanks to the open back

and play' as you're likely to get - simply set up the microphone in the right spot and you have a useable kick drum sound straight away.

The frequency response chart shows a boost at 100Hz, and then flat response up to around 3,000Hz with another boost, which gives a full upper-mid response for that 'click' of the beater hitting the kick drum head. **R**

VERDICT: The MkII builds on the classic status of the original but the integrated mic stand mount means that the D112 manages to improve on a classic.

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★★
PLAYABILITY	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
RHYTHM RATING	★★★★★

Essential spec

AKG

PRICE

£129

MICROPHONE TYPE

Dynamic

POLAR PATTERN

Cardioid

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

20Hz to 17,000Hz

MOUNT

Integrated

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