

SPECS

Frequency response:
20Hz to 20kHz

Sensitivity (1kHz into 2.5 kOhms): 27mV/Pa (+/- 10mV capsule-specific)

Impedance: 500hms

Rated Load Impedance:
Not less than 1kohm

Self noise: < 7.5 dB
(A-weighted)

Max output (1% THD into 2.5 kOhms): 12dBV (3.1Vrms)

Max SPL (0.5% THD into 2.5 kOhms): 138dB

Dynamic range: 130dB

Current draw: 1.8mA


Supply voltage: 48V
phantom (35V minimum)

Dimensions:

273mm x 63mm



FutureMusic
Platinum
Award



FutureMusic
Value Award

Blue Bottle Rocket

Stage One | £600

Blue's Bottle Rocket Stage One presents an affordable entry into the world of interchangeable capsules. **Jon Musgrave** prepares for take off

WHAT IS IT?

Phantom powered condenser microphone with interchangeable capsule

CONTACT

Who: TC Electronic
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Web: bluemic.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Flexible
- 2 Quiet, discrete circuit design
- 3 Many capsule options

Blue Microphones now sell an impressively broad range of mics including everything from iPod add-ons to

high-end valve designs. The Bottle Rocket Stage One comes from the pro end of the range, but its solid state Class A electronics make it less of a wallet buster than their valve designs like the Bottle Rocket Stage 2 or top-of-the-range Bottle.

Concept

The Stage One is a large capsule phantom-powered condenser mic. It comes complete with an individually boxed preamp body, B8 cardioid capsule and a suspension cradle. But

the real attraction here is the hot-swappable, interchangeable capsule, and this follows the bayonet design found on Neumann's CMV-563 mic. This means the Rocket One can handle any of Blue's 9 Bottle Caps (B0 through to B8) as well as vintage Neumann bayonets and re-issue capsules from Violet/JZ. With new and vintage capsules available from a few hundred pounds, the Bottle Rocket One is an extremely flexible mic.

Visually, the Rocket body is just like Blue's Bluebird, but comes in a deep blue finish. The capsule end is modified to accept the bayonet fitting, and with the capsule installed, the overall package is quite long (almost 11

inches). The preamp specification is virtually identical to the Bluebird, and this means very low self-noise ($<7.5\text{dB}$ A-weighted) and good maximum SPL handling (138dB for 1% THD). Sensitivity varies depending on your chosen capsule.

Performance

The Bottle Rocket One capsule and body are stored separately, forcing you to assemble the mic for each use. Both parts feel solidly built, and the bayonet fitting feels like it should withstand long-term use. Sonically, the B8 capsule is trailed by Blue as 'the popular opinion' sound, and this translates into a flat mid-range with a nice enhanced top end (peaking at around 5.5kHz).

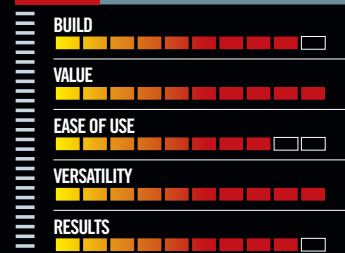
In use this added a modern sparkle to everything I tried it on, including percussion, vocal, flute and acoustic guitar. Even so, for naturally bright sources such as kit overheads I'd be looking for a different mic or capsule. At lower frequencies proximity wasn't that dominant, and the subtle low-end boost at 50Hz didn't affect any of the sources I tried.

Overall

So, any issues? First up, the Bottle Rocket cradle is quite fiddly to install. It clamps to the mic body, and this involves feeding the mic through the cradle first. Also, although the elements are individually boxed, the bundle ships in a re-useable cardboard box rather than flight case. Finally, it's worth saying that the capsule-dominated appearance of the mic won't be to everyone's taste.

From a performance and flexibility perspective it's extremely hard to knock this mic. If you're interested in getting into vintage bayonet capsules, or simply want the option of some variety, the Bottle Rocket One offers this at a very reasonable price. **FM**

FutureMusic **VERDICT**



Bottle Rocket One sounds great and the bayonet design makes it an incredibly flexible option.