

SPECS

Type: Cardioid Condenser microphone
Capsule: dual diaphragm, 27mm active diameter
Frequency Response: 20Hz to 20kHz
Output Impedance: 50ohm
Sensitivity: 33mV/Pa (1kHz into 1kohm load)
Equivalent Noise: 6.5dB A-weighted
Maximum SPL: 134.5dB (0.5% THD at 1kohm load)
Power: 48 volts (+/- 4volts)
Weight: 450g
Dimensions: 208 x 44mm

PRICING

Black Knight Suspension Cradle
£49



Violet Design Black Knight | £249

Violet's Black Knight is an affordable mic with their usual panache. *Jon Musgrave* sharpens his blade

WHAT IS IT?

Large Capsule Cardioid Condenser Microphone

CONTACT

Who: Violet Design
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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Flexible uncoloured sound
- 2 Useful pivoting head
- 3 Sleek black design

The market is dominated by grey identikit mics, but you can't fault Violet's desire to produce something a little different. What's more, if their more expensive mics are anything to go by, this 'budget' design should sound pretty fine too.

Like many of their mics, this is a phantom powered large capsule condenser. It's a dual-diaphragm configuration with fixed cardioid polar pattern and it's the same VD27 capsule unit found in the Dolly mic we reviewed a couple of years back. The mic comes in a wooden box and is bundled with a screw on mic clip.

A black cradle can be purchased for an extra £49. There are no

additional on-body switches and the only other physical features are the gold front badge and rear marking with serial number.

None more black

It's worth pointing out that the BK's visually striking headstock also has a practical purpose, as it connects to the body via a ball-joint. This allows movement to a maximum of nearly 90 degrees to the left and right, 25 degrees down and about 10 degrees up. Overall this is limited by three end-stop pegs but within those boundaries you can basically tilt it how you want.

This may seem slightly gimmicky as moving the mic stand or clip is an obvious starting point, but in awkward

spaces or if you want to make small changes it could prove helpful. Out of the box, the Black Knight has a quality finish. The matt black coating on both mic and cradle is excellent, and they've gone so far as to include a removable collar to hide the stand thread at the bottom.

Looking more closely at the head design, the grill is a fine mesh but also a single layer (many large capsule mics have twin layer mesh grills). This should prevent it from colouring the sound, but I would imagine might also make it more susceptible to plosives.

With the mic set up, talking into it gives an immediate impression of its un-hyped sound. However, as predicted if you get in close, plosives become an issue, and with no low-cut filter, a pop shield is the only option. Incidentally, Violet make some pretty nifty wire mesh pop shields.

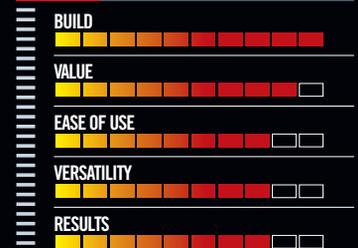
Alright on the Knight

As I said, the sound itself is pretty natural and with no top-end boost. This makes acoustic guitar sound good and solid, but you may find yourself reaching for the EQ to give it a bit of sparkle. On percussion and top kit such as cymbals the sound was great, and I could happily use a pair of Black Knights as drum kit overheads.

However, it's worth saying that if you compare it to a more 'hyped' mic, you will feel it's slightly dull. My opinion is that if you want the extra top end, a bit of high frequency EQ at the recording stage is acceptable.

Violet's Black Knight is a solid mic that offers something slightly different both sonically and visually to other mics in this price range. However, it's a bit more expensive than some of the competition, especially when you factor in the suspension cradle. Even so, if you fancy something a little out of the ordinary, it's a microphone well worth checking out. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



Violet's Black Knight offers its own sound and style at a very competitive price.