

Type: Cardioid condenser mic
Capsule: Single diaphragm, 21mm active diameter
Frequency Response: 20Hz to 20kHz
Output Impedance: 50 ohms
Sensitivity: 25mV/Pa (1kHz into 1kohm load)
Equivalent Noise: 6dB A-weighted
Maximum SPL: 136dB (0.5% THD at 1kohm load)
Power: 48 volts (+4/-8 volts)
Weight: 350g
Dimensions: 42 x 210mm



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Violet 'The Wedge' Microphone | €555

Violet's latest mic looks almost conventional. **Jon Musgrave** checks if it retains their trademark quality

WHAT IS IT?

**Large capsule cardioid
condenser mic**

CONTACT

Who: Violet Design
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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Open engaging sound
- 2 Excellent specification
- 3 Stylish modern look

PRICING

Suspension Cradle
80Euro

Dual Mesh Pop Shield
95Euro

Violet Mics always impress both stylistically and sonically. Their latest condenser mic hints at the classic Neumann shape but with a twist – they've stretched it lengthways. The result is a big five-inch open capsule grill and a small three-inch body. As mentioned, it's a regular phantom-powered cardioid condenser and in keeping with other Violet mics, there are no additional options such as pad or low cut. The capsule itself is a single diaphragm centre-tapped design, and at 21mm across it's at the smaller end of the large capsule spectrum.

As far as I can tell it's a different capsule to any of their other mics. Inside, the capsule sits on top of a three-inch mounting. This incorporates

the first stage of the electronics, keeping them close to the capsule, but also helps provide plenty of space around it. So overall, even though you've got a dual mesh grill, the capsule sits in a very open space, reducing internal reflections.

The standard package includes a basic screw fit mic mount, but you can also add a proper suspension cradle and their rather nifty-looking dual mesh pop shield. In our review bundle, all items were finished in the same deep purple coating giving the whole kit a stylish but understated look.

On the bench

One thing that Violet mics seem to have in common is excellent technical specifications and internal electronics.

The Wedge follows the same route with Class-A discrete transformerless electronics. Self-noise figures are excellent (6dB A-weighted) and the output reasonably healthy (25mV/Pa). The quoted frequency response plot shows a pretty flat response apart from a gentle lift from 2kHz to 10kHz, peaking around the 6kHz point. This is certainly different to both their Dolly/Baby Bottle design, and the Black Knight I reviewed last year, all of which have a flatter response. If anything the Wedge is closer to the modern 'slightly hyped' sound you expect from a large cap condenser.

So, miking up a few things reveals an instantly upfront sound, with plenty of top end presence. My first check with any new mic is acoustic guitar, as it reveals the mic's tonal balance. This sounds really open even at close range, and the proximity isn't unpleasant with no unneeded boxiness. Moving on to voice and The Wedge is excellent, with the slight adding excellent presence pushing vocals forward.

From a practical perspective, it's important to be aware of the capsule position, as the tall grill has an inch of space at the top. In tight spaces this may be a little awkward. Also remember this if you're using their rather nifty pop shield, as it's quite small, so positioning is paramount. I found the pop shield a little frustrating not because of its size, but because its mounting fixes its distance from the capsule at a couple of inches. This would deter me from using the pop shield in all applications.

Verdict

Overall, The Wedge is an excellent addition to Violet's mic range and their nearest mic to the 'mass market' hyped large capsule mic that everyone seems to crave. As usual they've done it their way and the result is more stylish and personal than the many identikit grey tubes out there. **FM**

FutureMusic **VERDICT**

