

AUDIO-TECHNICA ATM350D DRUM MIC

£333 Small in size, big in sound, Audio-Technica's ATM350D drum mic is a miniature marvel



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Audio-Technica's ATM350D is the drum variant of its popular multi-instrument ATM350a condenser mic. Launched in 2016, the ATM350D features an increased SPL (the dynamic range that a mic is capable of handling) over its predecessor and a brand new mounting assembly.

Build

In some situations size does matter and the ATM350D is about as discreet as it's physically possible for a drum mic to be. The pint-sized capsule is barely over a centimetre in diameter and is located at the end of a wirey gooseneck, which can be bent in any direction. The other end of the gooseneck locks into the new UniMount clamp. This both hooks into and slots over a tension rod of your choice making a rock-solid mounting that is quick to snap into place and remove. This combination provides complete flexibility, ensuring that the mic can be placed in a spot where it is unlikely to be on the receiving end of a stray stick.

Hands On

While Audio-Technica almost certainly had the live market in mind for this mic I was lucky enough to blag some studio time, which is a far sterner test. Four ATM350D mics were sent for review, so I miked a four-piece kit, placing them on the snare, rack tom, floor tom and kick (not strictly recommended but worth trying anyway). The only additional mics used were two condenser overheads and no EQ was employed to colour the sound.

From the off, the sheer accuracy and clarity of sound they captured was nothing short of exceptional. The snare was crisp and warm, the toms were open and rounded and even the kick drum came across strongly (certainly a useable signal that could be shaped as desired). As the mics are cardioid in pattern



SOUND

The quality of sound the ATM350D produces belies its tiny proportions

SIZE

The diminutive dimensions of the ATM350D make it easy to avoid accidental stick hits

MOUNT

Well-engineered UniMount locks securely onto a tension rod with no tightening required

they only focus on the sound they are facing, so sound-spill from the other components is kept to a minimum - which is a boon as much in the studio as it is in a live setting. These drum mics are also breathtakingly sensitive: I went from full-on, stick-shredding playing to whisper-quiet brushwork and everything was relayed

faithfully with the drums sounding utterly natural wherever they were on the dynamic spectrum. A truly impressive piece of kit and hard to fault. **R**

VERDICT: While this is not the cheapest drum mic on the market it's probably the most user-friendly, versatile and quality-sounding option available. As a package, it's hard to beat.

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

Essential spec



PRICE

Audio-Technica ATM350D drum mic: £333

MIC TYPE

Condenser

PHANTOM POWER REQUIRED?

Yes

CABLE INCLUDED?

Yes

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

40-20,000 Hz

MAXIMUM SOUND INPUT LEVEL

159dB SPL

DYNAMIC RANGE

130dB

ACCESSORIES INCLUDED

AT8491D UniMount drum mount and AT8490 UniMount 5" gooseneck

CONTACT

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