

SAMSON C03

Samson C03 Multi Pattern Condenser Microphone Instruction Manual

Model: C03 | Brand: SAMSON

INTRODUCTION

The Samson C03 is a versatile multi-pattern condenser microphone designed for high-quality audio capture in various studio and live applications. It features dual 19mm diaphragm capsules, offering rich, warm bass and an extended top end for vocals, and a detailed, transparent response for instruments. Its robust construction and flexible controls make it a valuable tool for professional audio production.



Figure 1: Samson C03 Multi Pattern Condenser Microphone. This image shows the microphone's sleek black design with its prominent grille.

KEY FEATURES

- **Dual 19mm Diaphragm Capsules:** Captures audio with rich bass and extended high frequencies.
- **Switchable Pickup Patterns:** Offers Super Cardioid, Omni, and Figure-8 patterns for versatile recording.
- **Switchable High-Pass Filter:** Reduces unwanted low-frequency noise.
- **10dB Pad:** Attenuates input signal to prevent distortion when recording loud sources.
- **Gold-Plated XLR Connectors:** Ensures reliable and high-quality signal transfer.
- **48-Volt Phantom Power LED Indicator:** Provides visual confirmation of power status.
- **Durable Construction:** Built with a combination of metal and plastics for longevity.
- **Included Accessories:** Comes with a swivel stand mount and a protective carry case.

SETUP

1. **Mounting the Microphone:** Attach the C03 to a microphone stand or boom arm using the included swivel mount. The swivel mount features a thread reducer, allowing compatibility with various stand types. Ensure the microphone is securely fastened.
2. **Connecting to an Audio Interface/Mixer:** The C03 uses an XLR connection. Connect the microphone to an audio interface or mixer using a standard XLR cable (not included).
3. **Phantom Power:** The C03 requires 48-volt phantom power to operate. Activate phantom power on your audio interface or mixer. The LED indicator on the microphone will illuminate when phantom power is supplied correctly.
4. **Initial Settings:** Before recording, ensure the 10dB pad is disengaged (0dB) and the high-pass filter is off for a neutral starting point. Adjust these settings as needed during operation.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Polar Pattern Selection

The Samson C03 offers three switchable polar patterns to adapt to different recording scenarios. A switch on the microphone body allows you to select between:

- **Super Cardioid:** Ideal for isolating a single sound source, minimizing pickup from the sides and rear. This pattern is excellent for vocals and individual instruments.
- **Omni-directional:** Captures sound equally from all directions. Suitable for recording room ambiance, group vocals, or multiple instruments simultaneously.
- **Figure-8:** Picks up sound from the front and rear equally, while rejecting sound from the sides. Useful for recording two vocalists facing each other or for specific stereo miking techniques.

High-Pass Filter

The high-pass filter switch (often labeled 'HPF' or with a filter icon) reduces low-frequency rumble and unwanted bass frequencies. Engage this switch when recording vocals to reduce plosives or when recording instruments to eliminate stage rumble or handling noise.

10dB Pad

The 10dB pad switch (often labeled '-10dB') attenuates the input signal by 10 decibels. Use this feature when recording very loud sound sources, such as drums, guitar amplifiers, or brass instruments, to prevent signal clipping and distortion in your audio interface or mixer.

MICROPHONE PLACEMENT

Proper microphone placement is crucial for optimal sound capture. Experiment with different positions relative to the sound source and room acoustics. Consider the following general guidelines:

- **Vocals:** For a clear vocal recording, position the microphone 6-12 inches from the vocalist, slightly off-axis to reduce plosives. Use the Super Cardioid pattern for maximum isolation.
- **Acoustic Guitar:** Place the microphone 6-12 inches from the soundhole, pointing towards the 12th fret for a balanced sound. Experiment with the angle and distance to capture desired warmth or brightness.
- **Drum Overheads:** Use two C03 microphones in Omni mode, placed above the drum kit, to capture a wide stereo image.

of the entire kit.

- **Piano:** For grand pianos, place two C03s in Omni mode, one over the bass strings and one over the treble strings, at a distance of 1-2 feet.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Samson C03 microphone, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the microphone body. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as they can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in its included protective carry case to shield it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Handling:** Always handle the microphone with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to harsh impacts, which can affect its delicate internal components.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Samson C03, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound:** Ensure phantom power is activated on your audio interface/mixer. Check all XLR cable connections for proper seating. Verify that the input gain on your interface/mixer is set appropriately.
- **Distorted Sound:** If the audio sounds distorted, check if the 10dB pad is engaged. Disengage it if the sound source is not excessively loud. Reduce the input gain on your audio interface/mixer.
- **Excessive Bass/Rumble:** Engage the high-pass filter to reduce unwanted low-frequency noise. Adjust microphone proximity to the sound source.
- **Unwanted Background Noise:** Ensure you are using the appropriate polar pattern for your recording environment. The Super Cardioid pattern offers the best rejection of off-axis sounds.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Item Weight	2.5 Pounds
Microphone Form Factor	Microphone Only
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	11.75 x 2.75 x 9.25 inches
Power Source	Corded Electric (48V Phantom Power Required)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	76 dB
Number of Channels	1
Manufacturer	Samson

UPC	809164003397
Item Model Number	SAM CO3
Connectivity Technology	XLR
Connector Type	XLR
Compatible Devices	Laptop, Personal Computer, Audio Interface, Mixer, Portable Recorder
Polar Pattern	Super Cardioid, Omni-directional, Figure-8 (Switchable)
Audio Sensitivity	142 Decibels

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Samson C03 Multi Pattern Condenser Microphone comes with a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the included warranty card for specific terms and conditions. It is recommended to register your product online to activate your warranty and receive product updates.

For technical support, product inquiries, or service requests, please visit the official SAMSON website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt and product serial number handy for faster assistance.