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[Q & A](#) | [Deep Search](#) | [Upload](#)

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- › [MXL](#) /
- › [MXL 990 Condenser Microphone User Manual](#)

MXL MXL990

MXL 990 Condenser Microphone User Manual

Model: MXL990

[Introduction](#)

[What's in the Box](#)

[Features](#)

[Setup](#)

[Operating Instructions](#)

[Maintenance](#)

[Troubleshooting](#)

[Specifications](#)

INTRODUCTION

The MXL 990 is a high-quality condenser microphone designed for professional sound recording. It features a FET preamp and a large diaphragm, delivering professional sound quality for both digital and analog recordings. The microphone is known for its silky high-end and tight low-to-midrange reproduction, making it suitable for various applications.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX



Image: The MXL 990 microphone, MXL90 shockmount, MT-001 mic stand adapter, and a durable carrying case, as packaged.

- MXL 990 Condenser Microphone
- MXL90 Shockmount
- MT-001 Mic Stand Adapter
- Durable Carrying Case

KEY FEATURES

- **High Quality Audio:** Equipped with an FET preamp and large diaphragm for professional sound quality in both digital and analog recordings. Provides a silky high-end and tight low-to-midrange.
- **Background Noise Reduction:** Features a cardioid polar pattern that effectively rejects noise from the sides and back, focusing on the primary sound source.
- **Versatile Applications:** Suitable for voice-overs, podcasting, gaming, and studio recording, offering a wide 20 Hz to 20 kHz frequency response for various vocal types.
- **Phantom Power Requirement:** Operates on +48V phantom power, compatible with most audio interfaces and mic preamps that provide this feature.

SETUP GUIDE

1. Connecting the Microphone

The MXL 990 connects via an XLR cable. This microphone requires +48V phantom power to operate. Ensure your audio interface or mixer provides phantom power and that it is activated before use.



Image: The MXL 990 microphone showing its XLR connection port at the base.



Image: The MXL 990 microphone mounted on a stand using the included MT-001 adapter.

2. Mounting the Microphone

Attach the MXL 990 to a microphone stand using either the MXL90 Shockmount or the MT-001 Mic Stand Adapter. The shockmount helps to isolate the microphone from vibrations and handling noise, providing cleaner recordings.



Image: The MXL 990 microphone securely placed within its MXL90 shockmount, ready for attachment to a stand.

For visual guidance on setting up your microphone, please refer to the official video below:

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Video: An overview of the MXL 990 Condenser Microphone, demonstrating its features and setup.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Microphone Orientation

The MXL 990 is a side-address microphone with a cardioid polar pattern. For optimal sound capture, ensure the side

of the microphone with the "MXL" logo is facing directly towards the sound source (e.g., vocalist, instrument). Incorrect orientation can result in muffled sound or reduced clarity.



Image: A close-up view of the MXL 990 microphone, highlighting the MXL logo which indicates the front of the microphone.



Image: A person singing into the MXL 990 microphone, demonstrating correct orientation towards the sound source.

2. Using a Pop Filter/Windscreen

For vocal recordings, it is highly recommended to use a pop filter or windscreen. This helps to reduce plosive sounds (like 'p' and 'b' sounds) and protects the microphone capsule from moisture, ensuring clearer audio and prolonging the microphone's lifespan.

3. Gain Staging

Adjust the gain on your audio interface or mixer to achieve an optimal signal level without clipping. Monitor your input levels to prevent distortion and ensure a clean recording.

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Video: A vocal demonstration using the MXL 990, showcasing its audio quality for singing.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Gently wipe the microphone body with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the MXL 990 in its provided durable carrying case to protect it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Handling:** Handle the microphone with care. Avoid dropping it or exposing it to extreme temperatures or humidity.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Sound/Low Output:**
 - Ensure +48V phantom power is enabled on your audio interface or mixer.

- Check all XLR cable connections for proper seating.
 - Verify that the gain knob on your audio interface is turned up sufficiently.
- **Muffled or Weak Sound:**
 - Confirm the microphone's "MXL" logo is facing directly towards the sound source.
 - Ensure the microphone is not too far from the sound source.
 - **Excessive Background Noise:**
 - Check your recording environment for ambient noise sources.
 - Ensure the microphone is properly isolated using the shockmount.
 - Consider using a pop filter to reduce plosives and breath noise.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model Name	990
Microphone Form Factor	Large Diaphragm
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Connectivity Technology	XLR
Connector Type	XLR
Power Source	+48V Phantom Power
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 20 kHz
Audio Sensitivity	20 Decibels
Impedance	200 Ohms
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	80 dB
Item Weight	1.2 Pounds (0.54 kg)
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	11.77 x 7.28 x 3.5 inches (29.9 x 18.5 x 8.9 cm)
Material	Metal
Color	Champagne

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the official MXL website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

