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AKG C516 ML

AKG C516 ML Professional Miniature Condenser Instrument Microphone

Model: C516 ML

Introduction

The AKG C516 ML is a professional miniature clamp-on condenser microphone designed for precise sound capture of drums and percussion instruments. Its robust construction and specialized features make it an ideal tool for both live performance and studio recording environments.
Key features include:

- **Cardioid polar pattern:** Effectively rejects overspill from nearby instruments, focusing on the intended sound source.
- **Full-metal housing with shock mount:** Provides durability and protects the microphone capsule from impacts and vibrations.
- **Integrated mounting clamp:** Ensures secure attachment to a wide variety of instruments.
- **Included gooseneck holder:** Allows for precise positioning of the microphone for optimal sound capture.
- **Detachable microphone cable:** Facilitates easy installation and serviceability.

Setup

Follow these steps to set up your AKG C516 ML microphone:

1. **Attach the Microphone:** Use the integrated vise-type clamp to securely fix the microphone onto the rim of your drum or percussion instrument. Ensure the clamp is tightened sufficiently to prevent movement during use.
2. **Position the Gooseneck:** Adjust the flexible gooseneck to position the microphone capsule optimally relative to the sound source. The special Snap-On stabilizer helps maintain the desired position.
3. **Connect the Cable:** Connect the mini-XLR end of the included cable to the microphone. Connect the other end (standard XLR) to your audio interface, mixer, or wireless body-pack transmitter (if using the A400 adapter plate).
4. **Apply Phantom Power:** As a condenser microphone, the C516 ML requires phantom power (+48V) from your connected device to operate. Ensure phantom power is enabled on the input channel you are using.


C 516



Image: The AKG C516 ML microphone with its integrated clamp and adjustable gooseneck, ready for attachment to an instrument.

Operating Instructions

Once set up, consider the following for optimal performance:

- **Microphone Placement:** Experiment with the microphone's distance and angle from the instrument to achieve the desired tone and minimize unwanted resonances. The cardioid pattern is most sensitive directly in front of the capsule.
- **Bass Cut Switch:** The C516 ML (or similar models in the series) may feature an integrated, switchable bass cut. This can be used to reduce low-frequency rumble or proximity effect, especially when the microphone is placed very close to the sound source. Refer to the specific markings on your microphone for this feature.
- **Monitoring:** Listen to the microphone's output through headphones or monitors to fine-tune placement and settings.

Maintenance

Proper care will extend the life and performance of your microphone:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the microphone body and gooseneck. For the microphone grille, a soft brush can be used to gently remove dust or debris. Do not use liquid cleaners directly on the microphone capsule.
- **Cable Care:** Avoid sharp bends or kinks in the microphone cable. When coiling, use a loose, natural loop to prevent internal wire damage.
- **Storage:** Store the microphone in its included bag or a protective case when not in use to shield it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Avoid exposing the microphone to extreme temperatures, high humidity, or direct sunlight for prolonged periods.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your C516 ML microphone, consider the following:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	• Phantom power not enabled. • Cable faulty or improperly connected. • Input channel muted or volume too low.	• Ensure +48V phantom power is active on your mixer/interface. • Check all cable connections; try a different cable. • Verify input channel settings on your mixer/interface.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Low or distorted sound	• Incorrect gain staging. • Microphone too far from source. • Bass cut engaged when not needed.	• Adjust input gain on your mixer/interface. • Reposition microphone closer to the instrument. • Check bass cut switch setting.
Excessive plosives or breath noise	• Microphone too close to sound source or direct air blasts. • No windscreen used.	• Slightly reposition the microphone or angle it away from direct air blasts. • Utilize the included W44 windscreen.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	C516 ML
Microphone Form Factor	Gooseneck
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Connectivity Technology	Wired (XLR Connector)
Power Source	Corded Electric (Requires Phantom Power)
Frequency Response	15 KHz
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	78 dB
Noise Level	31 dB
Item Weight	0.86 Pounds (approx. 13.8 ounces)
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	7.8 x 5.5 x 2.7 inches
Color	Black
Manufacturer	AKG

What's in the Box

The AKG C516 ML package typically includes the following components:

- 1 x C516 Microphone
- 1 x W44 Windscreen
- 1 x Microphone Bag
- 1 x Mini XLR to Mini XLR Cable (1.5 m/5 ft.)
- 1 x A400 Adaptor Plate (for wireless body-pack transmitters)
- 1 x Adhesive Compound

- 1 x Double-Sided Adhesive Rubber Plate
- 1 x H516 Mount Plate
- 3 x Self-Tapping Screws (2.9 x 13mm)
- 3 x Countersunk Bolts (3 x 30mm)

Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official AKG website or contact AKG customer service directly. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region and retailer.
You can typically find support resources, FAQs, and contact information on the manufacturer's official website: www.akg.com

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