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› [MXL](#) /

› MXL 2003A Large Diaphragm Condenser Microphone User Manual

MXL MXL-2003A

MXL 2003A Large Diaphragm Condenser Microphone User Manual

Model: MXL-2003A

1. INTRODUCTION

The MXL 2003A is a versatile large-diaphragm condenser microphone designed for critical recording applications. It features a transformerless FET preamp for a smooth and even response, making it suitable for various instruments and vocals. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your MXL 2003A microphone.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

- MXL 2003A Large Diaphragm Condenser Microphone
- MXL 56 High-Isolation Shock Mount

Note: An XLR cable and 48V phantom power source are required for operation and are not included.

3. KEY FEATURES

- All-purpose microphone with a vintage-modeled capsule design.
- Transformerless FET preamp for smooth, even frequency response.
- Provides outstanding realism for recordings of any instrument.
- Includes a switchable bass roll-off filter to reduce low-frequency rumble.
- Features a switchable -10dB attenuator pad for high sound pressure level (SPL) sources.
- Excellent for recording various music styles.

4. SETUP

Proper setup ensures optimal performance and longevity of your microphone.

1. **Mounting the Microphone:** Secure the MXL 2003A microphone into the provided MXL 56 high-isolation shock mount. The shock mount helps to minimize unwanted vibrations and handling noise.

2. **Attaching to a Stand:** Attach the shock mount assembly to a sturdy microphone stand.
3. **Connecting the Cable:** Connect a standard 3-pin XLR microphone cable to the microphone's output. Ensure the connection is firm.
4. **Connecting to Audio Interface/Mixer:** Connect the other end of the XLR cable to an audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier that provides 48V phantom power. The MXL 2003A requires 48V phantom power to operate.
5. **Activating Phantom Power:** Activate the 48V phantom power on your audio interface or mixer. The microphone will not function without it.



Image: The MXL 2003A microphone securely placed within its high-isolation shock mount, ready for attachment to a microphone stand. This setup minimizes vibrations for cleaner audio capture.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The MXL 2003A features a unidirectional (cardioid) polar pattern, meaning it is most sensitive to sound coming from the front and rejects sound from the sides and rear. This helps to reduce background noise and feedback.

5.1 Switches

The microphone is equipped with two switches on its body:

- **Bass Roll-off Switch:** This switch activates a low-frequency cut filter. Engage this switch to reduce unwanted low-end rumble, proximity effect, or stage vibrations. This is particularly useful for vocals or when recording instruments that do not require strong bass frequencies.
- **-10dB Pad Switch:** This switch engages a -10dB attenuation pad. Use this when recording very loud sound sources, such as drums, loud guitar amplifiers, or brass instruments, to prevent overloading the microphone's internal circuitry or your preamplifier.



Image: A close-up view of the MXL 2003A microphone's side, highlighting the bass roll-off and -10dB pad switches. These controls

allow for sound shaping and handling of high sound pressure levels.

5.2 Placement for Recording

Experiment with microphone placement to achieve the desired sound. For vocals, position the microphone 6-12 inches from the vocalist, using a pop filter to reduce plosives. For instruments, consider the instrument's sound characteristics and the acoustic environment.

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Video: A demonstration of the MXL 2003A Large Capsule Condenser Microphone in use for vocal recording. This video illustrates typical setup and performance in a studio environment.

6. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your MXL 2003A microphone, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Gently wipe the microphone body with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as they can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in a protective case or pouch to shield it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Humidity Control:** Avoid exposing the microphone to extreme humidity or temperature fluctuations, which can affect its sensitive components.
- **Handling:** Always handle the microphone with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your MXL 2003A microphone, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound Output:**
 - Ensure 48V phantom power is activated on your audio interface or mixer.
 - Check all XLR cable connections for proper seating.
 - Test with a different XLR cable to rule out cable failure.
 - Verify that input gain levels on your interface/mixer are appropriately set.
- **Low Output Level:**
 - Confirm that the -10dB pad switch is not engaged unless necessary for a very loud source.
 - Increase the gain on your preamplifier or audio interface.
- **Distorted Sound:**
 - If the sound source is very loud, engage the -10dB pad switch.
 - Reduce the input gain on your preamplifier or audio interface.
 - Ensure the microphone is not placed too close to the sound source.
- **Excessive Bass or Rumble:**
 - Engage the bass roll-off switch to filter out low frequencies.
 - Increase the distance between the microphone and the sound source to reduce proximity effect.
- **Intermittent Noise or Crackling:**
 - Check all cable connections.
 - Test with a different XLR cable.

- Ensure the microphone is not exposed to strong electromagnetic interference.

If these steps do not resolve the issue, please contact MXL customer support for further assistance.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Microphone Type	Large Diaphragm Condenser
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Frequency Response	(Not explicitly stated in product data)
Impedance	200 Ohms
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	83 dB
Power Source	48V Phantom Power
Special Features	Switchable High-Pass Filter, Switchable -10dB Pad, Transformerless FET Preamp
Connector Type	XLR
Material	Brass
Dimensions (L x W x H)	10 x 5 x 9 inches (Product Dimensions)
Item Weight	1 Pound

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the official MXL website or contact your authorized dealer. For technical support or service inquiries, please visit the MXL support page or contact their customer service department directly.

Manufacturer: Marshall Electronics

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