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RØDE Microphones PROCASTER

RØDE Procaster Broadcast Dynamic Vocal Microphone User Manual

Model: PROCASTER

1. Introduction

The RØDE Procaster is a broadcast-quality dynamic microphone designed for vocal applications such as podcasting, radio production, and voice-overs. It features a robust construction, a tailored frequency response for voice, and excellent ambient noise rejection. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your Procaster microphone.
Key features include:

- High output dynamic capsule.
- Balanced, low impedance output.
- Internal shock mounting for reduced handling noise.
- Integrated internal pop filter to minimize plosives.

2. Setup

2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the microphone and all accessories from the packaging. Verify that the following components are included:

- RØDE Procaster Microphone
- Stand Mount
- 3/8 inch Adaptor
- Zip Pouch

Inspect the microphone for any visible damage. If any components are missing or damaged, contact your retailer.

2.2 Mounting the Microphone

The Procaster is a substantial microphone, weighing approximately 1.06 pounds (0.48 kg). Ensure your microphone stand or boom arm is capable of supporting this weight securely.

1. Attach the provided stand mount to your microphone stand or boom arm.

2. If your stand has a 5/8-inch thread, use the included 3/8 inch adaptor to ensure compatibility.
3. Carefully screw the RØDE Procaster microphone into the stand mount. Ensure it is tightened sufficiently to prevent movement.

2.3 Connecting to an Audio Interface

The Procaster uses a standard XLR connector for audio output. It is a dynamic microphone and does not require phantom power.

1. Connect one end of a high-quality XLR cable to the microphone's XLR output.
2. Connect the other end of the XLR cable to an input on your audio interface, mixing console, or digital recorder.

Important Note on Gain: The RØDE Procaster has an audio sensitivity of -56 dB. It requires a significant amount of gain from your audio interface or preamplifier to achieve optimal signal levels. Ensure your audio device can provide sufficient clean gain (typically 50-60 dB or more) to avoid introducing unwanted noise. An inline preamplifier (e.g., a 'Cloudlifter' or 'FetHead') can be used if your interface's preamps are insufficient.





Figure 1: Front view of the RØDE Procaster microphone, showcasing its grille and robust black metal body.

3. Operating the Microphone

3.1 Microphone Placement

The Procaster 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 design is effective for isolating your voice and minimizing background noise.

- **Proximity Effect:** The microphone exhibits a proximity effect, where bass frequencies are boosted as the sound source moves closer to the microphone. Experiment with distance to achieve your desired tonal balance.
- **Optimal Distance:** For clear, full-bodied vocals, position the microphone 2-6 inches (5-15 cm) from your mouth.
- **Off-Axis Rejection:** To reduce unwanted room noise or other sound sources, ensure they are positioned to the sides or rear of the microphone.

3.2 Managing Plosives and Sibilance

The Procaster includes an internal pop filter designed to reduce plosive sounds (harsh 'P' and 'B' sounds). While effective, proper vocal technique and microphone placement are still recommended.

- Speak across the microphone rather than directly into it to further minimize plosives.
- If excessive plosives persist, consider using an external pop filter.



Figure 2: A user operating the RØDE Procaster microphone in a broadcast setting, demonstrating typical usage.

4. Maintenance

The RØDE Procaster is constructed with a durable metal body designed for longevity. Proper care will ensure its continued performance.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the microphone body. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in its provided zip pouch to protect it from dust and physical damage.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Avoid exposing the microphone to extreme temperatures, high humidity, or direct moisture.

5. Troubleshooting

5.1 Low or No Audio Output

- **Gain Settings:** Ensure the gain on your audio interface or preamplifier is set appropriately high for a dynamic microphone. The Procaster requires substantial gain.
- **Cable Connection:** Verify that the XLR cable is securely connected at both the microphone and the audio interface.
- **Input Selection:** Confirm that the correct input channel is selected on your audio interface or mixer.
- **XLR Pin Issue:** If the XLR connector feels loose or pins appear to be pulling out, ensure the small bolt near the connector on the microphone is sufficiently tightened. This bolt secures the ground pin, which is intentionally larger to ensure it connects first for protection.

5.2 Excessive Background Noise

- **Microphone Placement:** Re-evaluate microphone placement. Ensure the primary sound source is directly in front of the microphone and unwanted noise sources are off-axis (to the sides or rear).
- **Gain Staging:** If your gain is set too high on a noisy preamp, it can amplify ambient room noise. Optimize gain settings, potentially using an inline preamplifier for cleaner boost.
- **Environment:** Consider acoustic treatment for your recording space to reduce reflections and ambient noise.

5.3 Plosive Sounds (Pops)

- **Speaking Technique:** Adjust your speaking angle to be slightly off-axis to the microphone.
- **External Pop Filter:** While the Procaster has an internal pop filter, an additional external pop filter can provide further reduction of plosives.

6. Specifications

Model	PROCASTER
Brand	RØDE Microphones
Microphone Form Factor	Large Diaphragm
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Connectivity Technology	Wired
Connector Type	XLR
Power Source	Corded Electric (No Phantom Power Required)
Audio Sensitivity	-56 Decibels
Impedance	1500 Ohm
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	78 dB
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 20 kHz
Special Feature	Noise Reduction (via dynamic capsule and polar pattern)
Material	Metal
Color	Black

Item Weight	1.06 Pounds (0.48 kg)
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	11.25 x 2.5 x 5.5 inches (28.58 x 6.35 x 13.97 cm)
Included Components	Stand mount, 3/8 inch adaptor, zip pouch
Compatible Devices	Audio Interface, Mixing Console, Digital Recorder

7. Warranty Information

RØDE Microphones offers a **10-year warranty** for the Procaster microphone upon product registration. This demonstrates RØDE's confidence in the quality and durability of their products. Please refer to the official RØDE website for detailed warranty terms, conditions, and registration procedures.

8. Support

For further assistance, technical support, or to access additional resources, please visit the official RØDE Microphones website or contact their customer service department. You can often find FAQs, firmware updates, and detailed product guides on their support pages.
Online Resources: www.rode.com

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