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AKG C214

AKG C214 Condenser Microphone User Manual

Brand: AKG Pro Audio | Model: C214

Introduction

The AKG C214 is a professional large-diaphragm condenser microphone designed for studio-grade vocal and instrument recording. It offers exceptional sound quality and versatility, making it suitable for a wide range of audio applications. Engineered with a supreme one-inch capsule and integrated suspension, it effectively reduces mechanical noise, ensuring clean and clear recordings. Key features include a switchable 20dB attenuation pad for handling loud sound sources and a switchable bass-cut filter to minimize proximity effect during close-up recording.

Product Overview





Figure 1: Front view of the AKG C214 microphone, showcasing its gray and gold design with the AKG logo and C214 model number.





Figure 2: Side view of the AKG C214 microphone, highlighting its robust aluminum construction and the switch for attenuation.





Figure 3: Back view of the AKG C214 microphone, showing the XLR connector and additional controls.



Figure 4: The AKG C214 microphone packaged with its rugged aluminum carrying case, shock mount, and foam windscreen.

Setup

What's in the Box

Upon unboxing your AKG C214 microphone, you should find the following components:

- AKG C214 Condenser Microphone
- Rugged Aluminum Carrying Case
- H85 Universal Shock Mount
- W214 Windscreen (foam)

Connecting the Microphone

The AKG C214 uses an XLR connector for audio output. To set up your microphone:

1. **Mounting:** Attach the C214 microphone to the included H85 Universal Shock Mount. This mount helps to isolate the microphone from vibrations and handling noise.
2. **Stand Attachment:** Secure the shock mount to a microphone stand (not included) using its standard threading.
3. **XLR Connection:** Connect a standard 3-pin XLR cable (not included) from the microphone's XLR output to an audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier that provides 48V phantom power.

4. **Phantom Power:** Ensure that 48V phantom power is enabled on your audio interface or mixer. The C214 is a condenser microphone and requires phantom power to operate.
5. **Input Level:** Adjust the input gain on your audio interface or mixer to achieve an optimal recording level without clipping.

Operating the AKG C214

Key Features and Controls

- **Polar Pattern:** The C214 features a cardioid polar pattern, which is highly effective at picking up sound from the front while rejecting sounds from the sides and rear. This makes it ideal for isolating vocals or instruments in a studio environment.
- **Switchable 20dB Attenuation Pad:** Located on the microphone body, this switch allows you to reduce the input sensitivity by 20dB. This is crucial when recording very loud sound sources, such as drums, electric guitar amplifiers, or powerful vocals, preventing signal overload and distortion. The microphone can handle sound pressure levels (SPL) of up to 156dB with the pad engaged.
- **Switchable Bass-Cut Filter:** Also on the microphone body, this filter reduces low-frequency rumble and proximity effect. Proximity effect is an increase in bass response that occurs when a sound source is very close to the microphone. Engaging this filter helps to maintain a clear and balanced sound, especially for close-miking applications or in environments with unwanted low-frequency noise.

Optimal Usage

Due to its large-diaphragm design and dynamic range, the C214 offers flexibility in microphone placement. You do not always need to be extremely close to the microphone to capture a clear signal. Experiment with distances to find the best sound for your specific recording scenario. The microphone's robust all-metal construction ensures durability and consistent performance.

Maintenance

Proper maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your AKG C214 microphone:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the microphone body. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as they can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** Always store the microphone in its rugged aluminum carrying case when not in use. This protects it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Humidity:** Avoid exposing the microphone to extreme humidity or temperature fluctuations, which can affect its performance and lifespan.
- **Handling:** Handle the microphone with care. While it features a durable metal construction, dropping it can still cause internal damage.
- **XLR Connector:** Ensure XLR cables are inserted and removed carefully to prevent damage to the connector pins.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your AKG C214, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound Output	No 48V phantom power; faulty XLR cable; incorrect input selection on interface/mixer.	Ensure 48V phantom power is enabled. Test with a different XLR cable. Verify correct input is selected.
Distorted Sound	Input gain too high; 20dB attenuation pad not engaged for loud sources.	Reduce input gain on your interface/mixer. Engage the 20dB attenuation pad if recording loud sources.
Excessive Bass/Muddiness	Proximity effect; low-frequency rumble.	Engage the bass-cut filter. Increase distance from the sound source if proximity effect is too strong.
Hissing/Noise	Poor quality cables; electrical interference; high gain settings in a quiet environment.	Use high-quality balanced XLR cables. Ensure proper grounding of equipment. Lower gain if possible.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	AKG
Model Name	C214
Microphone Form Factor	Microphone Only
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Connectivity Technology	Wired
Connector Type	XLR
Audio Sensitivity	156 dB (with 20dB attenuation pad)
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 20 KHz
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	81 dB
Noise Level	81 dB
Material	Aluminum
Item Weight	1.76 pounds (0.8 Kilograms)
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	11.3 x 8.6 x 3.9 inches
Included Components	Microphone, H85 Universal Shock Mount, W214 Windscreen, Carrying Case

Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official AKG Pro Audio website or contact their customer service. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

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