

Golden Age Project R1ACTIVEMK3

Golden Age Project R1 Active MKIII Active Ribbon Microphone User Manual

Model: R1 Active MKIII

1. INTRODUCTION

The Golden Age Project R1 Active MKIII is an active ribbon microphone designed to deliver the characteristic warmth and smooth sound of a classic ribbon microphone, enhanced with the stability and output level of active electronics. This microphone is suitable for a wide range of recording applications, including vocals, acoustic instruments, electric guitar, and drums, offering a natural and musical sound reproduction.

This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your R1 Active MKIII microphone to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

2. KEY FEATURES

- Active ribbon design combining classic ribbon sound with stable output.
- Smooth high-end and extended low-end frequency response.
- Bipolar/FET discrete low-noise amplifier with a low impedance transformer-less output stage.
- Requires standard 48V phantom power for operation.
- Integrated active electronics raise the signal level and isolate the ribbon element.
- Switchable -10dB pad for handling high sound pressure levels.
- Switchable 100Hz low-cut filter to reduce unwanted low-frequency rumble.
- Includes a removable microphone cable and padded case.

3. SETUP

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the R1 Active MKIII microphone from its padded case. Inspect for any visible damage.
2. **Mounting:** Attach the microphone to a suitable microphone stand using the integrated stand adapter.

Ensure it is securely fastened.

3. **Connection:** Connect the included microphone cable (XLR) to the microphone's output and to an XLR input on your audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier.
4. **Phantom Power:** The R1 Active MKIII requires 48V phantom power to operate. Activate the 48V phantom power on your audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier. Ensure phantom power is applied *after* connecting the microphone and turned off *before* disconnecting to prevent potential damage or loud pops.
5. **Positioning:** Position the microphone appropriately for your sound source. Ribbon microphones typically have a figure-8 polar pattern, meaning they pick up sound from the front and back equally, while rejecting sound from the sides.



A front view of the Golden Age Project R1 Active MKIII ribbon microphone, showcasing its silver mesh grille, dark green body with the 'GA Project' logo, 'R1 ACTIVE MKIII' text, and switches for -10dB pad and low-cut filter. The microphone is mounted on its stand adapter.

4. OPERATING THE MICROPHONE

4.1. Switches

The R1 Active MKIII features two switches on its body:

- **-10dB Pad:** This switch attenuates the microphone's output by 10 decibels. Engage this pad when recording very loud sound sources (e.g., close-miked guitar cabinets, drums) to prevent overloading the microphone's internal electronics or your preamplifier's input.
- **100Hz Low-Cut Filter:** This switch activates a high-pass filter that reduces frequencies below 100Hz. Use this to minimize unwanted low-frequency rumble, handling noise, or proximity effect when recording vocals or instruments where deep bass is not desired.

4.2. Microphone Placement

Due to its figure-8 polar pattern, the R1 Active MKIII is sensitive to sound from both the front and rear. Consider the following:

- **Proximity Effect:** Like most directional microphones, ribbon microphones exhibit proximity effect, which is an increase in bass response as the microphone is moved closer to the sound source. Use this to your advantage for added warmth on vocals or instruments, or use the low-cut filter to counteract excessive bass.
- **Off-Axis Rejection:** The sides of the microphone (90 degrees from the front/back) offer maximum sound rejection. This can be useful for isolating a sound source in a live room or reducing bleed from other instruments.
- **Stereo Techniques:** Two R1 Active MKIII microphones can be used for various stereo recording techniques, such as Blumlein pair (two figure-8 microphones crossed at 90 degrees) for a wide, natural stereo image.

5. MAINTENANCE

- **Storage:** Always store the microphone in its padded case when not in use to protect it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the microphone. Do not use liquid cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Handling:** Ribbon elements are delicate. Avoid dropping the microphone or subjecting it to strong vibrations. Do not blow directly into the microphone, as strong air blasts can damage the ribbon.
- **Phantom Power:** While the R1 Active MKIII is designed for phantom power, always ensure it is applied and removed correctly (as described in the Setup section) to prevent sudden electrical surges.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 48V phantom power. Faulty cable connection. Input gain too low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate 48V phantom power on your preamplifier/interface. Check all cable connections; try a different XLR cable. Increase the input gain on your preamplifier/interface.
Distorted sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input overloaded by loud source. Preamplifier input overloaded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the -10dB pad on the microphone. Reduce the input gain on your preamplifier/interface. Move the microphone further from the sound source.
Excessive low-frequency rumble/boominess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity effect. Room resonance or handling noise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the 100Hz low-cut filter. Increase distance from the sound source. Ensure microphone stand is stable and isolated.
High self-noise or hiss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High gain setting on preamplifier. Electrical interference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimize gain staging; ensure sound source is adequately loud. Check for nearby electronic devices causing interference. Use balanced XLR cables.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Name	R1 Active MKIII
Type	Active Ribbon Microphone
Polar Pattern	Figure-8
Power Requirement	48V Phantom Power
Switches	-10dB Pad, 100Hz Low-Cut Filter
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	14.69 x 8.31 x 5.59 inches
Item Weight	3.24 pounds
Recommended Uses	Voice Recording, Video Recording, Speech, Live-Sound applications

8. WARRANTY INFORMATION

Golden Age Project products are typically covered by a limited manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Golden Age Project website for detailed warranty terms and conditions specific to your region and purchase date. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

9. SUPPORT

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or service inquiries, please contact Golden Age Project customer support. You can typically find contact information, FAQs, and additional resources on the official Golden Age Project website:

www.goldenageproject.com

When contacting support, please have your product model (R1 Active MKIII) and serial number ready.