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AKG 2200Z00330

AKG C480 B Combo Reference Modular Condenser Microphone

Instruction Manual

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The AKG C480 B Combo is a high-performance reference modular condenser microphone system, combining the C480 B pre-amplifier with the CK61 ULS cardioid capsule. This combination is engineered to deliver exceptional audio quality and versatility for professional recording and live sound applications.

Its design features a transformerless output stage for linear transfer characteristics and ultra-low noise performance. The CK61 ULS capsule provides a ruler-flat frequency response and a consistent cardioid polar pattern, making it ideal for precise sound capture and effective suppression of off-axis sounds.





Figure 1: AKG C480 B Combo Reference Modular Condenser Microphone. This image shows the full assembly of the C480 B pre-amp and the CK61 ULS capsule, highlighting its sleek, matte black finish and modular design.

2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please verify that all items listed below are present in your package:

- 1 x C480 B Pre-Amp
- 1 x CK61 ULS Capsule
- 1 x W32 Windscreen
- Instruction Manual (this document)

3. SETUP AND ASSEMBLY

1. **Attach the Capsule:** Carefully screw the CK61 ULS capsule onto the C480 B pre-amplifier. Ensure it is securely fastened but do not overtighten.
2. **Connect to Audio Equipment:** Use a standard XLR cable to connect the microphone's 3-pin XLR output to a microphone preamplifier, mixer, or audio interface. Ensure your audio equipment provides 48V phantom power, as this microphone requires it for operation.
3. **Mounting:** Secure the microphone to a suitable microphone stand using a compatible microphone clip (not included, typically supplied with the stand).
4. **Windscreen Installation:** If desired, gently slide the W32 windscreen over the CK61 ULS capsule to reduce plosives and wind noise, especially in vocal applications or outdoor environments.

Note: Always ensure all connections are secure before applying phantom power to prevent potential damage to the microphone or connected equipment.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Phantom Power

The AKG C480 B requires 48V phantom power for operation. This power is typically supplied by your mixer, audio interface, or a dedicated phantom power supply unit. Ensure phantom power is enabled on the input channel to which the microphone is connected.

4.2 Polar Pattern (CK61 ULS Capsule)

The CK61 ULS capsule features a **cardioid** polar pattern. This pattern is most sensitive to sounds coming from the front of the microphone and significantly reduces sounds from the sides and rear. This makes it ideal for isolating a sound source and minimizing background noise or feedback in live sound environments.

4.3 Preattenuation Pad

The C480 B pre-amplifier includes a switchable preattenuation pad to handle high sound pressure levels (SPL) without distortion. The pad can be set to **-6 dB** or **-10 dB**. Engage the pad when recording very loud sources, such as drums, loud vocals, or amplified instruments, to prevent input clipping at your preamplifier.

4.4 Bass Cut Filter

A switchable bass cut filter (low-cut filter) is available on the C480 B pre-amplifier, set at **100 Hz**. This filter helps to reduce unwanted low-frequency noise, such as rumble from air conditioning, stage vibrations, or proximity effect (an increase in bass response when a sound source is very close to the microphone). Engage this filter when such low-frequency interference is present.

5. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the microphone body. Do not use liquid cleaners, solvents, or abrasive materials, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in its original packaging or a protective case to shield it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the microphone or subjecting it to strong impacts, as this can damage the sensitive capsule and electronics.
- **Environment:** Do not expose the microphone to extreme temperatures, high humidity, or direct sunlight for prolonged periods.
- **Self-Cleaning Contacts:** The C480 B features self-cleaning contacts to ensure reliable operation. No special maintenance is required for these contacts.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	Phantom power not enabled. Faulty XLR cable. Microphone not properly connected. Input gain too low on mixer/interface.	Ensure 48V phantom power is active. Test with a known good XLR cable. Verify secure connection of capsule and XLR cable. Increase input gain.
Distorted sound	Input signal too hot (clipping). Preattenuation pad not engaged for loud sources.	Engage the -6 dB or -10 dB preattenuation pad. Reduce input gain on mixer/interface.
Excessive low-frequency noise/rumble	Proximity effect. Environmental low-frequency noise (HVAC, vibrations).	Engage the 100 Hz bass cut filter. Increase distance from sound source if proximity effect is the cause.

7. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Parameter	Value
Model	AKG C480 B Combo (C480 B Pre-Amp + CK61 ULS Capsule)
Polar Pattern	Cardioid
Audio Frequency Bandwidth	20 - 20000 Hz
Equivalent Noise Level	11 dB-A
Sensitivity	20 mV/Pa
Signal to Noise Ratio	83 dB-A
Preattenuation Pad	6 dB, 10 dB (switchable)
Bass Cut Filter	100 Hz
Electrical Impedance	150 Ohms
Recommended Load Impedance	2000 Ohms
Dimensions (Height x Diameter)	171 mm x 21 mm
Finish	Matte Black
Audio Output Type	Balanced XLR, Male, 3-pin
Powering Interface Voltage	48 V Phantom Power
Current Consumption	2 mA
Item Weight	49.9 g (approx.)
Item Model Number	2200Z00330
UPC	885038007975

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official AKG website. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region.

For technical support, service, or replacement parts, please contact AKG customer service or an authorized AKG service center. Contact information can typically be found on the AKG website or in your product's packaging.

AKG Official Website: www.ake.com

