M-AUDIO Nova

M-Audio Nova Large-Capsule Condenser Microphone User Manual

Model: Nova

1. Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your M-Audio Nova Large-Capsule Condenser Microphone. The Nova microphone is designed to capture audio with clarity and accuracy, featuring a large evaporated-gold diaphragm and Class A electronics for low noise performance.
Please read this manual thoroughly before using your microphone to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

2. Package Contents

The M-Audio Nova package includes the following items:

- M-Audio Nova Microphone
- Hard Mount
- Soft Case
- XLR Microphone Cable
- User Guide (this document)
- Safety & Warranty Manual

3. Setup

Follow these steps to set up your M-Audio Nova microphone:

1. **Mounting the Microphone:**
   Attach the provided hard mount to a standard microphone stand. Securely fasten the M-Audio Nova microphone into the hard mount. Ensure the microphone is stable and positioned correctly for your recording needs.




M-AUDIO



Figure 1: M-Audio Nova microphone shown with its hard mount attached, ready for placement on a microphone stand.

2. **Connecting the XLR Cable:**

   Connect one end of the included 3-pin male XLR microphone cable to the XLR output port at the base of the Nova microphone. Connect the other end of the XLR cable to an audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier that provides 48V phantom power.





Figure 2: Front view of the M-Audio Nova microphone, illustrating its robust brass body and mesh grille. The XLR connection is located at the base.

3. **Applying Phantom Power:**

   The M-Audio Nova is a condenser microphone and requires 48V phantom power to operate. Activate the 48V phantom power switch on your audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier. The microphone will not function without phantom power.

4. **Adjusting Gain:**

   Before recording, set the input gain on your audio device. Start with the gain at its lowest setting and gradually increase it while speaking or performing into the microphone. Adjust until you achieve a strong signal without clipping (distortion).

4. Operating the Microphone

4.1 Polar Pattern: Cardioid

The M-Audio Nova features a cardioid polar pattern. This means the microphone is most sensitive to sounds coming from the front and rejects sounds from the sides and rear. This characteristic is beneficial for:

- **Isolating the Sound Source:** Focusing on a single vocalist or instrument in a busy environment.
- **Reducing Room Ambience:** Minimizing unwanted room reflections or background noise.
- **Feedback Rejection:** Useful in live sound applications to reduce microphone feedback.

Position the microphone with the front (where the M-Audio logo is visible) facing the desired sound source.





Figure 3: Detailed view of the M-Audio Nova's mesh grille, protecting the large evaporated-gold diaphragm. The front of the microphone, indicated by the logo, should face the sound source.

4.2 Microphone Placement

Experiment with microphone placement to achieve the desired sound. General guidelines include:

- **Vocals:** Position 6-12 inches from the vocalist, slightly off-axis to reduce plosives (harsh 'p' and 'b' sounds). A pop filter is recommended.
- **Acoustic Instruments:** Place 1-3 feet away, pointing towards the soundhole or soundboard, depending on the instrument and desired tone.
- **Proximity Effect:** Moving the microphone closer to the sound source will increase bass response. Use this effect creatively or compensate by adjusting EQ if the bass becomes too boomy.

5. Maintenance

Proper care will ensure the longevity and performance of your M-Audio Nova microphone:

- **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 soft case to protect it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Handling:** The microphone features a solid brass body for durability, but it should still be handled with care. Avoid dropping or subjecting it to harsh impacts.
- **Environment:** Keep the microphone away from extreme temperatures, high humidity, and strong magnetic fields.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your M-Audio Nova microphone, consider the following:

- **No Sound or Low Output:**
  - **Phantom Power:** Ensure 48V phantom power is activated on your audio interface or mixer. Condenser microphones require this power to operate.
  - **Cable Connection:** Verify that the XLR cable is securely connected to both the microphone and your audio device. Try a different XLR cable to rule out a faulty cable.
  - **Gain Level:** Check the input gain setting on your audio device. It may be set too low.
  - **Input Selection:** Confirm that the correct input channel is selected on your audio device and recording software.
- **Hum or Buzzing Noise:**
  - **Ground Loop:** This can occur if different audio components are plugged into different electrical outlets. Try plugging all audio equipment into the same power strip.
  - **Cable Quality:** A poorly shielded or damaged XLR cable can introduce noise. Try a different, high-quality XLR cable.
  - **Interference:** Keep the microphone and cables away from power supplies, computer monitors, and other electronic devices that can emit electromagnetic interference.
  - **Faulty Phantom Power:** Ensure your audio device is supplying stable 48V phantom power.
- **Distorted Sound:**
  - **Input Gain Too High:** Reduce the input gain on your audio device. The signal may be clipping.
  - **Proximity Effect:** If the sound is too bassy or boomy, try moving the microphone slightly further away from the sound source.

7. Technical Specifications

Feature	Specification
Microphone Type	Large Diaphragm Condenser, Gold Evaporated
Polar Pattern	Cardioid (Unidirectional)
Diaphragm Diameter	1.1 inches (28 mm)
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 18,000 Hz
Sensitivity	16 mV/Pa (-36 dBV)
Max. SPL (0.5% THD)	128 dB
Equivalent Noise Level	14 dB-A weighted
Output Impedance	200 ohms
Recommended Load Impedance	> 1,000 ohms
Preamp Topology	Class A FET preamp
Power Requirement	48V Phantom Power
Connector	3-pin Male XLR
Body Material	Solid Brass with Nickel Silver Plating
Dimensions (Diameter x Length)	1.9" x 7.3" (48 mm x 185 mm)
Weight	23 oz (0.65 kg)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	114 dB
Number of Channels	1
Compatible Devices	Personal Computer, Laptop (via audio interface)

Note: Specifications are subject to change without notice.

8. Warranty and Support

Detailed warranty information for your M-Audio Nova microphone is provided in the separate Safety & Warranty Manual included with your product. Please refer to that document for terms and conditions.
For technical support, service, or additional product information, please visit the official M-Audio website or contact their customer support directly. The manufacturer is inMusic Brands Inc.
M-Audio Website: www.m-audio.com

© 2023 M-Audio. All rights reserved. M-Audio is a trademark of inMusic Brands, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. Privacy details.

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question