

## TAKSTAR SGC-698

# TAKSTAR SGC-698 Photography Interview Recording Microphone User Manual

Model: SGC-698

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The TAKSTAR SGC-698 is a high-quality stereo condenser microphone designed for enhanced audio recording with DSLR cameras, camcorders, and other compatible devices. It is ideal for photography, interviews, and various recording applications, providing clear and stable sound. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your SGC-698 microphone.

### Key Features:

- Utilizes standard XY stereo microphone techniques for clear and stable sound positioning.
- Integrated +10dB sensitivity switch, suitable for various sound intensity recordings.
- Built-in low-cut filter switch to effectively reduce ambient noise.
- Anti-Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) protection technology to minimize signal interference.
- Standard 3.5mm mini-plug stereo output signal for broad compatibility.

## 2. SETUP

### 2.1 Battery Installation

The SGC-698 microphone requires one CR2032 3V button cell battery for operation. Ensure the battery is inserted with the correct polarity.

1. Locate the battery compartment cover, typically at the rear or bottom of the microphone unit.
2. Rotate the cover counter-clockwise to unlock and remove it.
3. Insert the CR2032 battery with the positive (+) side facing upwards.
4. Replace the cover and rotate it clockwise to lock it securely.



Figure 1: Battery compartment for CR2032 3V button cell.

## 2.2 Mounting the Microphone

The SGC-698 features a standard hot shoe connector for easy attachment to cameras and camcorders.

1. Slide the microphone's hot shoe mount into your camera's hot shoe slot.
2. Tighten the locking wheel on the microphone's mount to secure it in place.



Figure 2: Microphone mounted on a DSLR camera.

## 2.3 Connecting to Your Device

Connect the microphone to your recording device using the integrated 3.5mm mini-plug cable.

1. Plug the 3.5mm mini-plug from the microphone into the external microphone input jack on your camera or camcorder.
2. Ensure the connection is firm to prevent audio dropouts.



Figure 3: Microphone with 3.5mm mini-plug cable.

### 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

#### 3.1 Powering On/Off

Locate the power switch on the microphone unit. Slide it to the 'ON' position to power on the microphone. Slide it to 'OFF' when not in use to conserve battery life.

#### 3.2 Sensitivity Adjustment

The SGC-698 features a sensitivity switch with three settings: -10dB, 0dB, and +20dB. Adjust this setting based on your recording environment and desired audio level.

- **0dB:** Standard setting for most recording situations. Provides good bass response for music recording.
- **-10dB:** Reduces the input gain, useful in loud environments or when recording close to the sound source to prevent distortion. Can also reduce floor noise.
- **+20dB:** Boosts the input gain, suitable for quiet environments or when recording distant sound sources. Use with caution as it can also amplify background noise.

#### 3.3 Low-Cut Filter

The low-cut filter switch helps to reduce unwanted low-frequency noise, such as wind noise, air conditioner hum, or traffic rumble. Activate this filter when recording in environments prone to such disturbances.

#### 3.4 Using the Windscreen

For outdoor recording or in windy conditions, attach the included furry windscreen to minimize wind noise and

plosives, ensuring clearer audio.



Figure 4: Microphone with furry windscreen.

### 3.5 Battery Indicator

When you turn the microphone on, the battery indicator will blink briefly. It will turn a steady red when the battery level is getting low, indicating approximately one hour of recording time remaining before replacement is needed.

## 4. MAINTENANCE

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Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your microphone.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the microphone's exterior. Do not use liquid cleaners or solvents.
- **Battery Replacement:** Replace the CR2032 battery promptly when the low battery indicator appears. Dispose of used batteries responsibly.
- **Storage:** Store the microphone in a dry, cool place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for an extended period, remove the battery to prevent leakage.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping or subjecting the microphone to strong impacts, as this can damage internal components.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your SGC-698 microphone, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

| Problem                                        | Possible Cause                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Solution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No sound or very low sound output              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microphone not powered on.</li> <li>• Low or dead battery.</li> <li>• Incorrect sensitivity setting.</li> <li>• Loose or incorrect cable connection.</li> <li>• Camera audio input settings incorrect.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure power switch is 'ON'.</li> <li>• Replace the CR2032 battery.</li> <li>• Adjust sensitivity to 0dB or +20dB.</li> <li>• Check 3.5mm cable connection to both microphone and camera.</li> <li>• Verify camera's external microphone input is enabled and levels are appropriate.</li> </ul> |
| Distorted or clipping audio                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity setting too high.</li> <li>• Sound source too loud or too close.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust sensitivity to -10dB.</li> <li>• Increase distance from the sound source or reduce its volume.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Excessive background noise (hum, rumble, wind) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-cut filter not engaged.</li> <li>• Environmental noise.</li> <li>• No windscreen in windy conditions.</li> </ul>                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage the low-cut filter switch.</li> <li>• Move to a quieter recording environment.</li> <li>• Attach the furry windscreen.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                         |
| Interference from mobile phones                | Proximity to mobile devices.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Move mobile phones or other wireless devices away from the microphone and recording equipment. The microphone has anti-RFI technology, but strong signals can still cause issues.                                                                                                                                                         |

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed technical specifications for the TAKSTAR SGC-698 microphone:

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Microphone Type</b> | Electrostatic Capacitance  |
| <b>Polar Pattern</b>   | Unidirectional (Stereo XY) |

|                                  |                                                         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Frequency Response</b>        | 30 Hz - 16 kHz                                          |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>               | -44dB $\pm$ 3dB (0dB = 1 V/Pa at 1 kHz)                 |
| <b>Maximum SPL</b>               | 130dB (THD $\leq$ 1.0% at 1 kHz)                        |
| <b>Low-Frequency Attenuation</b> | 80 Hz 10 dB/octave                                      |
| <b>Output Impedance</b>          | $\leq$ 200 $\Omega$                                     |
| <b>Power Supply</b>              | CR2032 3V Button Battery                                |
| <b>Signal-to-Noise Ratio</b>     | 78 dB                                                   |
| <b>Connector Type</b>            | 3.5mm Jack                                              |
| <b>Material</b>                  | Aluminum                                                |
| <b>Dimensions (L x W x H)</b>    | 21.1 x 17.8 x 8.4 cm (approximate packaging dimensions) |
| <b>Item Weight</b>               | 1.15 lbs                                                |



Figure 5: Microphone dimensions.

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the documentation provided with your purchase or contact TAKSTAR customer service through their official website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

