CAD Audio AMS-D88

CAD Audio CADLive D88 Kick Drum Microphone User Manual

Model: AMS-D88

Introduction

The CAD Audio CADLive D88 is a large diaphragm supercardioid dynamic microphone specifically engineered for capturing kick drum sounds. Its robust design and advanced capsule technology are optimized for high sound pressure levels (SPL) and delivering a powerful, clear signal, making it suitable for demanding live performance and studio environments.
This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your CADLive D88 microphone to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

Image: The CAD Audio CADLive D88 microphone, showcasing its durable black finish and grille.

Setup

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the D88 microphone from its packaging. Inspect for any signs of damage.
2. **Mounting:** Attach the D88 microphone to a sturdy microphone stand using the integrated mount. Ensure the microphone is securely fastened to prevent accidental drops.
3. **Positioning:** For kick drum applications, position the microphone inside or just outside the kick drum's resonant head, typically aimed at the beater for attack or further back for more resonance. Experiment with placement to achieve the desired sound.
4. **Connection:** Connect a standard XLR cable (not included) to the microphone's XLR output. Connect the other end of the XLR cable to a microphone input on your audio mixer, audio interface, or PA system. Ensure a secure connection at both ends.
5. **Phantom Power:** The CADLive D88 is a dynamic microphone and does not require phantom power. Ensure phantom power is turned OFF on the connected input channel to avoid potential issues, although it typically will not damage dynamic microphones.

Image: The CADLive D88 microphone mounted on a stand, positioned for a kick drum, illustrating a typical setup scenario.

Operating Instructions

- **Gain Staging:** Once connected, gradually increase the gain (preamp level) on your mixer or interface for the D88's channel. Monitor the input level to ensure it is strong enough without clipping (distortion). The D88 provides a hot signal output, so less gain may be required compared to other microphones.
- **Polar Pattern:** The D88 features a supercardioid polar pattern. This pattern offers excellent rejection of sounds from the sides and rear, focusing on the sound source directly in front of the microphone. This is ideal for isolating the kick drum sound and minimizing bleed from other instruments on stage or in the studio.
- **High SPL Handling:** The D88 is designed to handle extremely high sound pressure levels (SPLs exceeding 150dB) without distortion. This makes it perfectly suited for loud kick drums and other high-volume percussion instruments.
- **Frequency Response:** With a frequency response of 20Hz-17kHz, the D88 is tailored to capture the full range of a kick drum, from deep lows to crisp attack. Adjust equalization on your mixer as needed to fine-tune the sound to your preference.

Image: A side view of the CADLive D88 microphone, highlighting its compact and durable design.

Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** To clean the microphone body, use a soft, dry cloth. For the grille, a soft brush can be used to gently remove dust or debris. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as these can damage the microphone's components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the D88 microphone in its original packaging or a protective case to shield it from dust, moisture, and physical impact. Store in a cool, dry place.
- **Handling:** While the D88 is built for durability, avoid dropping the microphone or subjecting it to excessive force, as this can affect its performance and internal components.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound Output	Loose or faulty XLR cable connection. Mixer channel muted or gain too low.	Check all cable connections. Ensure the mixer channel is unmuted and increase gain gradually. Test with a different XLR cable if possible.
Low or Weak Signal	Insufficient gain on mixer/interface. Incorrect microphone placement.	Increase the input gain on your mixer/interface. Adjust microphone placement closer to the sound source or optimize its angle.
Distorted Sound	Input gain too high, causing clipping. Faulty cable or input.	Reduce the input gain on your mixer/interface until distortion is eliminated. Check for damaged cables or try a different input channel.
Lack of Low-End Response	Microphone placement too far from the sound source or incorrect angle. EQ settings on mixer.	Adjust microphone placement, ensuring it is adequately capturing the low frequencies of the kick drum. Check and adjust EQ settings on your mixer to boost desired low frequencies.

Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Number	AMS-D88
Microphone Form Factor	Large Diaphragm
Polar Pattern	Supercardioid
Frequency Response	20Hz - 17kHz
Audio Sensitivity	-65dBv (mV) @ 1Pa
Impedance	80 ohms
Maximum SPL	>150dB
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	58 dB
Number of Channels	1
Material	Metal
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	8 x 5 x 3 inches
Item Weight	12 ounces

Warranty Information

Specific warranty details for the CAD Audio CADLive D88 microphone are typically provided with your purchase documentation or can be found on the official CAD Audio website. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. For detailed terms and conditions, refer to the manufacturer's official warranty policy.

Support and Contact

For technical assistance, product inquiries, or support, please contact CAD Audio directly through their official website or the retailer from whom you purchased the product. Ensure you have your model number (AMS-D88) and purchase details available when seeking support.
Official CAD Audio Website: www.cadaudio.com