

# GA PROJECT



## RIBBON MICROPHONE

Congratulations on choosing the Golden Age Project R2 ribbon microphone!

The R2 is a high quality vintage style ribbon microphone. It offers the unique and natural sound that has been available in classical microphones that are still used to make high quality recordings today after almost 70 years.



The R2 is very well suited for the recording of most sound sources like vocals, acoustic instruments, strings, horns, orchestras and choral groups and many live sound applications.

In spite of its low cost, the R2 meets the stringest demands.

To get maximum benefit and trouble free use out of the R2, please read this manual carefully.

### UNPACKING, INSPECTION STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

The R2 was carefully tested and packed at the factory. The wooden box has been designed to protect the mic when you ship or move it.

Please retain the shipping box in case you will need to transport the R2 for service or for any other reason.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The ribbon assembly in the R2, as with all ribbon microphones, is very sensitive and fragile and can be easily damaged if handled the wrong way,

That is why it is important that you immediately after you have received the R2, verifies that it is working properly and that it has not been damaged during shipping.

The warranty of the ribbon assembly in the R2 does not extend beyond this initial inspection, since it can be damaged so easily if it isn't handled properly.

In the rare case that the R2 is not working properly when receiving it, please contact your dealer.

### FEATURES AND USE OF THE R2

- The unmatched natural and musical sound of a classical ribbon microphone.
- A stunning realism with the feeling of "being there".
- The typical large and mellow ribbon sound quality with a very smooth top end and an extended low end.
- A fast and life-like transient reproduction.
- An high SPL capability, 137dB SPL (1% THD @ 1000 Hz) and a good sensitivity for a ribbon mic of this type.
- A Figure-8 directional pattern for wide sweet spots both in the front and in the back of the microphone. Zero spots towards the sides. This gives you the ability to separate sound sources by placing the unwanted ones in the side zero pick-up directions. Placing the unwanted ones towards the sides of the R2 will remove most of the direct sound from the sound source. The R2 will still pick up that source from the reverberant field in the recording room though.
- A 42mm long ribbon made of 2,5 microns thick aluminium foil. Due to the small width of the ribbon, the horizontal pick-up pattern is very wide. It is much wider compared to a large capsule condenser microphone. The vertical pick-up pattern is narrow at the higher frequencies though due to the length of the ribbon. This is due to the fact the the wavelength at higher frequencies is much shorter than the ribbon length. If you want a maximum top end response from the R2, it is important that the R2 is mounted so that it is parallel to the sound source. If it is vertically angled against the sound source, then there will inevitably be a loss of top end. This can sometimes be a good thing so this effect can be used creatively. The narrow vertical pick-up pattern will lower the effect of high frequency sound reflections.
- An internal shock mount for the ribbon and magnet assembly.
- Manufactured of the finest materials for a great performance and long-term reliability.

- The R2 can be used with any standard mixer or preamp, preferably with a balanced input.

Since the sensitivity of ribbon mics in general is quite low compared to condenser microphones, you will need a preamp with some extra gain available when you record quiet sound sources.

Be aware of the proximity effect (an increase in bass response) when the R2 is close to the sound source. This can be a good or a bad thing.

You can adjust the bass response by changing the distance from the mic to the sound source for an optimum result in different situations.

You can also use a high-pass filter in your preamp or mixer.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

-The active part in the R2 consists of a very thin and ultra-light corrugated aluminium ribbon clamped under light tension and mounted between the poles of a strong magnet.

When the sound waves hits the ribbon and moves it, a small current is generated in the ribbon since it is suspended in a magnetic field.

The good part of this design is that it results in one of the warmest and most natural sound available from any type of microphone.

The bad part of it is that it also make ribbon microphones the most sensitive and fragile ones.

It is therefor very important that the R2, as any other ribbon mic, is treated with very special care if it is not to be seriously damaged.

In order to ensure a long life for your R2, please always follow these guidlines:

1. Do never subject the R2 to hard knocks, such as dropping it or not packing it properly when you move or transport it since this can destroy the ribbon assembly.

2. Do never blow into the R2 and protect it from any strong blast of air movement as this can tear and destroy the fragile ribbon. Do never move around fast with the R2 in your hand, please remember that any excessive air movement can damage the ribbon.

3. Do always use a pop-filter when there is a risk of excessive air movements reaching the ribbon from the sound source. One exemple is close-up vocals. The pop-filter will also protect the R1 from mouth spray.

Do always protect the R2 from dirt and moisture.

4. Do never apply phantom power to the R2 since it can burn the ribbon.

Be very careful that phantom power is switched off before plugging the R2 into a mixer or preamp and see to it that no one turns the

phantom power on by mistake.

5. When the R2 is not in use, always keep it in its case.

6. Do always store the R2 in a vertical position.

If it is stored horisontally, the 42 mm long ribbon can sag by time which will gradually degrade the performance of the R2.

7. Avoid exposing the R2 to direct sunlight or extremes in humidity for extended periods of time.

8. Do never try to service the R2 yourself since this will void the warranty.

## **WARRANTY**

- Due to the extremely delicate nature of ribbon mics which can so easily be damaged by improper handling and use, the ribbon assembly is not covered under warranty.

Please check your R2 carefully immidiately when you receive it and make sure that there are no problems with the mic.

After that first initial inspection, the standard warranty only apply to defects in materials and workmanship in parts other than the ribbon assembly.

If the ribbon assembly is damaged during use, contact your dealer or us for a quote for replacement of the ribbon assembly.

service@goldenagemusic.se

## **SPECIFICATIONS**

Type: Large ribbon geometry, pure aluminium, 2,5um thick, 42 x 5mm size.

Polar pattern: Figure 8

Frequency response: 30Hz - 18kHz +/- 3dB

Sensitivity: -50dB (0dB=1V/Pa) @1kHz.

Maximum SPL (<1% THD @1kHz): 137 dB.

Output impedance: 250 ohm.

Recommended load impedance: > 1,2 kOhm.

Dimensions: 76x166 mm.

Weight: 350 g.

**Many thanks  
for purchasing the  
Golden Age Project R2  
- we wish you much joy and many  
wonderful recordings with it!**

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