R2 mkII

Passive Ribbon Microphone



GOLDEN AGE AUDIO

Notice

This manual provides general information, preparation for use, installation and operating instructions for the Golden Age Audio R2 mkII. The information contained in this manual is subject to change without notice. Golden Age Audio makes no warranties of any kind with regard to this manual, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Golden Age Audio shall not be liable for errors contained herein or direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages in connection with the furnishing, performance, or use of this material.

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PRECAUTIONS

Ribbon mics require special care.

It is very important that the R2 mkII, as any ribbon mic, is treated with care and respect if it is not to be seriously damaged. In order to ensure a long life for your R2 mkII, please always follow these guidelines:

1. **Never apply phantom power to the R2 mkII - it can burn the ribbon!** Be very careful that phantom power is switched off before plugging the R2 mkII into a mixer or preamp and see to it that no one turns the phantom power on by mistake.
2. Never subject the R2 mkII 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.
3. Never blow into the R2 mkII and protect it from any strong blast of air movement as this can tear and destroy the fragile ribbon.
4. Never move around fast with the R2 mkII in your hand, please remember that any excessive air movement can damage the ribbon.
5. Always use a pop-filter when there is a risk of excessive air movements reaching the ribbon from the sound source. One example is close-up vocals. The pop-filter will also protect the R1 from mouth spray.
6. Always protect the R2 mkII from dirt and moisture.
7. When the R2 mkII is not in use, always keep it the included wooden case.
8. Always store the R2 mkII in a vertical position. If it is stored horiZontally, the 42 mm long ribbon can sag over time, which will gradually degrade the performance of the R2 mkII.
9. Avoid exposing the R2 mkII to direct sunlight or extremes in humidity for extended periods of time.
10. Never try to service the R2 mkII yourself. This will void the warranty.

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WARRANTY

Please check the R2 mkII carefully immediately when you receive it and make sure that there are no problems with the microphone. The warranty period is one year and apply to defects in materials and workmanship. It does not cover misuse of the microphone. If you ever experience any problem, contact your dealer.

REGISTRATION

You are welcome to register your unit at our website: www.GoldenAgeAudio.com

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on choosing the Golden Age Project R2 mkII microphone!

The R2 mkII is a high-quality, vintage-style ribbon microphone with some modern enhancements. It offers the unique and natural sound that has been available in classic microphones that are still used to make high quality recordings today after almost 70 years.
The R2 mkII is very well-suited for recording most sound sources: vocals, acoustic instruments, strings, horns, orchestras and choral groups, and many live sound applications. For maximum benefit and trouble free use of the R2 mkII, please read this manual carefully.

UNPACKING, INSPECTION, AND TRANSPORT

The ribbon assembly in the R2 mkII is very sensitive and fragile, and can be easily damaged if mishandled.

The R2 mkII was carefully tested and packed at the factory. Its 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 mkII for service or for any other reason.

Immediately after you have received your R2 mkII, verify that it is working properly and that it has not been damaged during shipping.

The warranty of the ribbon assembly in the R2 mkII 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 mkII is not working properly upon receipt, please contact your dealer.

FEATURES

- Unmatched natural and musical sound of a classic ribbon microphone
- Stunning realism that sounds like "being there"
- Large, mellow ribbon sound quality with a very smooth top end and an extended low end
- Figure-8 directional pattern
- Fast and life-like transient reproduction
- High SPL capability, 137 dB SPL (1% THD @ 1000 Hz) and a good sensitivity for a ribbon mic of this type
- 42 mm long ribbon made of 2.5 micron aluminium foil
- Internal shock mount for the ribbon and magnet assembly
- Manufactured of the finest materials for a great performance and long-term reliability

HOW RIBBON MICS WORK

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

When sound pressure waves hit the ribbon, its vibrations generate a small electric current, which the magnet converts into an audio signal; much like a guitar pickup.

The great thing about this design is that it results in one of the warmest and most natural sounds available from any type of microphone. The less-great thing is that this design also makes ribbon mics quite sensitive and fragile. (See "Precautions" section on previous page.)

PICKUP PATTERN AND PLACEMENT

Ribbon mics like the R2 mkII all feature a Figure-8 polar pattern, meaning the mic will pick up from wide sweet spots both in front and in back of the mic.

Due to the small width of the ribbon, the R2 mkII's horizontal pick-up pattern is very wide; much wider compared to a large capsule condenser microphone, for example.

The R2 mkII's vertical pick-up pattern is much narrower, as the wavelengths of higher frequencies are much shorter than the actual ribbon itself!

To maximize the top-end response from the R2 mkII, it is important that the R2 mkII is placed parallel to the sound source. If vertically angled against a sound source, there will inevitably be a loss of top end. Note that this can sometimes be a good thing, so this effect creatively; you can tame over-bright cymbals this way.

The narrow vertical pick-up pattern will also reduce the capture of high-frequency reflections.

The R2 mkII's Figure-8 pickup pattern means that the mic rejects sound sources to the sides of the mic. Positioning unwanted sources towards the sides of the R2 mkII will remove most of the direct sound from the capture, though the R2 mkII may still pick up room reflections of these sources that hit its front and back.

PROXIMITY RESPONSE

Like many microphones, the R2 mkII exhibits proximity response, meaning an increase in low-frequency capture based on how close the mic is to a sound source. This can be a good or a bad thing.

Adjust the bass response by changing the distance from the mic to the sound source. Alternatively, you can employ a high-pass filter in your preamp or mixer to reduce unwanted low-end.

PREAMP CONSIDERATIONS

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

Because 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.



SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE:	Passive Ribbon
RIBBON DIMENSIONS:	42 mm x 5 mm x 2.5 µm
POLAR PATTERN:	Figure-8
FREQUENCY RANGE:	30 Hz–18 kHz
SENSITIVITY:	-50 dB (~3.2 mV/Pa
MAXIMUM SPL:	~137 dB (1% THD @1 kHz)
THD:	< 1%
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE:	250 Ω
LOAD IMPEDANCE:	1.2 kΩ
DIMENSIONS:	76x166 mm
WEIGHT:	350 g

Please note: Specifications can be changed at any time without notice.