



## R1 MKII

### Vintage Style Ribbon Microphone

#### INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on choosing the Golden Age Project R1 MKII microphone!

The R1 MKII is a high quality vintage style ribbon microphone. It offers the unique and natural sound that has been available in classical microphones like the RCA 44 and 77 that are still used to make high quality recordings today after almost 70 years.

The R1 MKII 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 R1 MKII meets the most stringent demands.

To get maximum benefit and trouble free use out of the R1 MKII, please read this manual carefully.

#### UNPACKING, INSPECTION STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

The R1 MKII was carefully tested and packed at the factory. The soft case has been designed to protect the microphone when you store, ship or move it. Please always use it when you will need to transport the R1 MKII for service or for any other reason.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The ribbon assembly in the R1 MKII, as in any 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 R1 MKII, verifies that it is working properly and that it has not been damaged during shipping.

The warranty of the ribbon assembly in the R1 MK II 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 R1 MKII is not working properly when receiving it, please contact your dealer.

#### FEATURES

- 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 ultra-high SPL capability, 160 dB SPL (1% THD @ 1000 Hz) and a very good sensitivity for a ribbon microphone.
- 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.
- A 50 mm long ribbon made of 2 microns thick

aluminium foil.

- An internal shock mount for the ribbon and magnet assembly.
- A removable microphone cable and a soft transport case
- Manufactured of the finest materials for a great performance and long-term reliability.
- The R1 MKII can be used with any standard mixer or preamp, preferably with a balanced input.

#### USE OF THE R1 MKII

The Figure-8 pattern of the R1 MKII 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 R1 MKII will remove most of the direct sound from the sound source. The R1 MKII will still pick up that source from the reverberant field in the recording room though.

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 wavelength at higher frequencies is much shorter than the length of the ribbon. If you want maximum top end response from the R1 MKII, it is important that the R1 MKII 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.

Since the sensitivity of ribbon microphones in general are 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 R1 MKII 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 microphone 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 R1 MKII 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 makes ribbon microphones the most sensitive and fragile ones. It is therefore very important that the R1 MKII, as any other ribbon microphone, is treated with very special care if it is not to be seriously damaged.

In order to ensure a long life for your R1 MKII, please always follow these guidelines:

1. Do never subject the R1 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.
2. Do never blow into the R1 MKII and protect it from any strong blast of air movement as this can tear and destroy the fragile ribbon.
3. Do never move around fast with the R1 MKII in your hand, please remember that any excessive air movement can damage the ribbon.
4. Do 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 MKII from mouth spray.
5. Do always protect the R1 MKII from dirt and moisture.
6. Do never apply phantom power to the R1 MKII since it can burn the ribbon. Be very careful that phantom power is switched off at least 1 minute before plugging the R1 MKII into a mixer or preamp and see to it that no one turns the phantom power

on by mistake.

7. When the R1 MKII is not in use, always keep it in its soft case.

8. Do always store the R1 MKII in a vertical position. If it is stored horizontally, the 50 mm long ribbon can sag by time which will gradually degrade the performance of the R1 MKII.

9. Avoid exposing the R1 MKII to direct sunlight or extremes in humidity for extended periods of time.

10. Do never try to service the R1 MKII yourself since this will void the warranty.

### WARRANTY

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

Please check your R1 MKII carefully immediately when you receive it and make sure that there are no problems with the microphone. After that first initial inspection, the standard one year 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 for a quote for replacement of the ribbon assembly.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Type: Large ribbon geometry, pure aluminium, 2 um thick, 50 x 5 mm size.

Polar pattern: Figure 8

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

Sensitivity: -52 dB (0 dB=1V/Pa) @ 1kHz.

Maximum SPL (<1% THD @ 1kHz): 160 dB.

Output impedance: 600 ohm, balanced.

Recommended load impedance: > 3 kOhm.

Dimensions: 69x185 mm.

Weight: 1 400 g.

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

**Many thanks for purchasing the Golden Age Project R1 MKII**

**- We wish you much joy and many wonderful recordings with it!**

