

# **RØDE**<sup>®</sup>

M I C R O P H O N E S



## **VideoMic Instruction Manual**



[www.rodemic.com](http://www.rodemic.com)

# Introduction

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Thank you for investing in the **RØDE** VideoMic.

Those of you who are first time **RØDE** customers, may be interested to know that **RØDE** is one of the largest and most respected professional microphone companies in the world. Our studio microphones are the 'tone' behind some of the biggest hits of the last decade, and our award winning live performance microphones are on tour throughout the world.

The VideoMic is a very special product. Like many great inventions, it is the result of a need that was not being met. I bought a high quality MiniDV camera, and went looking for a shotgun mic. The choices were either totally useless low-cost rubbish, or mics not designed for MiniDV cameras that cost a fortune.

I was amazed that no one offered a quality product that worked and was affordable. This made me decide to design and build the definitive video microphone.

I wanted a microphone that would provide the same level of sound quality and low noise specifications as high cost professional models, and be easy to use and mount. The **RØDE** VideoMic delivers on that aim!

How can **RØDE** achieve this when others can't? It is simple. **RØDE** spends millions of dollars on R&D and automated machinery. When you invest in high volume production technologies, the costs drop dramatically. We pass on these savings to our customers. We have been doing this with our studio microphones for the last 16 years, and continue to win international awards for performance and quality.

Please take the time to read this manual so that you can get the best out of your microphone.

If you have any questions or comments, you can log onto our web site at **www.rodemic.com** where there are answers to frequently asked questions as well as our contact details.



Peter Freedman  
**RØDE** Microphones  
Sydney, Australia

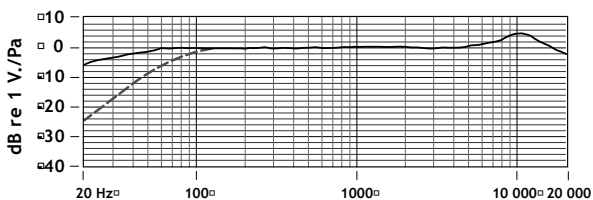
# Specifications

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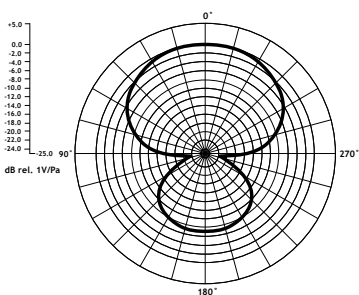
<b>Acoustic Principle:</b>	Line plus Gradient
<b>Directional Pattern:</b>	Super-Cardioid
<b>Frequency Range:</b>	40Hz ~ 20,000Hz selectable High Pass Filter (HPF) @ 80Hz 12dB/octave (see graph)
<b>Output Impedance:</b>	200 $\Omega$
<b>Sensitivity:</b>	-38dB re 1V/Pa @ 1kHz (12.6mV/Pa @ 94dB SPL) $\pm$ 2dB @ 1kHz
<b>Equivalent Noise:</b>	20dBA SPL (per IEC651)
<b>Dynamic Range:</b>	114dB (per IEC651)
<b>Maximum SPL:</b>	134dB (@ 1kHz, 1% THD into 1k $\Omega$ )
<b>Signal/Noise:</b>	74dB SPL (@ 1kHz, rel 1Pa per IEC651)
<b>Power (supply voltage):</b>	9V alkaline battery Current 5mA
<b>Battery Life:</b>	>100 hours
<b>Output Connection:</b>	3.5mm stereo jack plug
<b>Net Weight:</b>	176g (no battery)

# Specifications

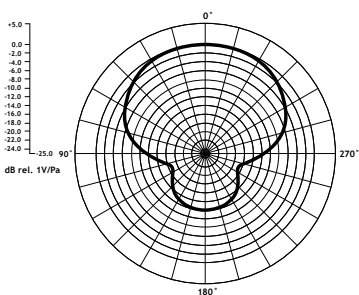
## Frequency Response



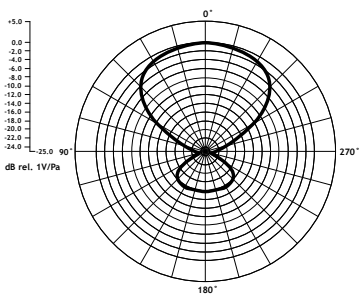
## Polar Responses



Super-Cardioid - 250Hz



Super-Cardioid - 1kHz



Super-Cardioid - 4kHz

# Features

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- Studio recording quality
- Rugged ABS construction
- 9V battery operation
- Custom designed integral 'wind' screen
- Condenser microphone
- Low noise circuitry
- Low handling noise
- Integral 'camera shoe' mount
- Designed in Australia
- Full 10 year guarantee\*

## Powering the VideoMic

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- The VideoMic operates on a standard 9V battery (ANSI:1604A or IEC:6LR61). We recommend you use either Alkaline or Lithium batteries for the longest continuous operating time.
- The VideoMic will run continuously for over 100 hrs with a good quality Alkaline battery. It is however important to understand that battery performance can vary dramatically with ambient temperature and shelf life.

Actual operation times will vary, and we suggest you always carry a spare battery.

If the application is critical and where there is no opportunity to 're-shoot', we suggest that you use a fresh battery.

\*Online product registration required.

# Installing the battery

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- To install the battery, simply place your thumb on the ribbed section of the cover, in front of the gold circle (figure 1).



Figure 1 - Sliding open the battery cover

Press down gently and slide back the cover until it is fully removed (figure 2).



Figure 2 - The battery compartment

- Insert the battery with the "+" Positive terminal to the top as shown in (figure 3). You will find that you cannot reverse the battery, as the compartment won't allow this.



Figure 3 - Inserting the battery

- Once you have installed the battery, slide the cover back into position and you are ready to fasten the mic onto the camera.

# Mounting the VideoMic

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- The VideoMic incorporates a standard camera-shoe adaptor on the underside of the suspension shock mount (figure 4).

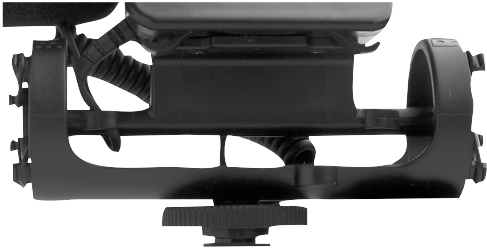


Figure 4 - Camera-shoe adaptor

Designed to reduce camera borne motor and handling noise, the shock mount has a 3/8" x 16 and a 1/4" x 20 threaded insert for mounting on tripods and poles.

- You will find older model and low cost cameras produce more motor noise, which the VideoMic can pick up. If so, switch on the High Pass Filter (HPF) to reduce this (refer to page 9 for more details).

You could also notice that your camera's inbuilt microphone may not pick up this noise and wonder why. On-board mics are for general-purpose use, and designed to do a basic job. They can cancel out certain sounds such as motor noise at the expense of tone and directional characteristics. The very latest cameras incorporate low noise/vibration motors, making them relatively silent.

- Before sliding the camera-shoe into place, turn the knurled tightening ring anti clockwise to make sliding the camera-shoe into place much easier (figure 5).

Now turn the knurled ring in a clockwise direction, gently tightening it so the VideoMic base is seated firmly in place. The actual microphone will exhibit

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some play, due to the shock mounting system.



Figure 5 - Mounting the VideoMic

The VideoMic has eight cable clips to eliminate noise transmission and secure it in place once connected (figure 6).



Figure 6 - Correctly mounting the cable

- The VideoMic delivers a mic level signal to the video camera via a stereo mini jack audio lead. The mini jack should be connected to the camera via the camera's "Audio-In" socket (figure 7) - refer to your video camera user manual.



Figure 7 - Connecting the VideoMic lead to your camera



# VideoMic controls

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- Now that you have the VideoMic securely fastened to your camera and the audio output lead connected, you can switch the mic on.

## On/Off & High Pass Filter Switch

- The power/HPF switch is located on the end of the mic body (figure 8).

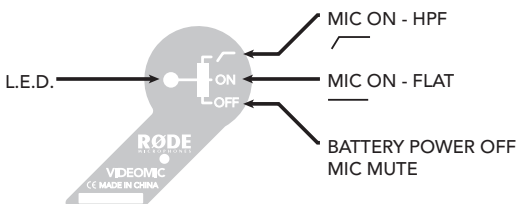



Figure 8 - The High Pass Filter (HPF) switch

The High Pass Filter (HPF ) is a low frequency cutoff setting, which you can use to remove rumble or other low frequency noise while recording. It will affect the tone slightly but in some situations it is required.

## L.E.D. Power Indicator

- The power indicator L.E.D. flashes RED for 0.25 seconds when the mic is first turned on. This changes to GREEN indicating the battery has adequate charge.

When the battery runs low the LED will change back to RED and you should replace the battery. The mic will work for approximately 1 hour once the RED indicator is lit, however with reduced performance.

- It is now time to set the camera's audio level. To ensure the optimum signal you will need to set the VU meter on the camera to read around "3/4" or "75%" on the sound peaks (usually configurable from the menu of most cameras - refer to your video camera user manual).

- You should try and set the level using the sound source you will be recording, or a sound source of similar level, before starting to record or you could distort the input if the level has been set too high. Please consult your video camera user manual for more details.
- The Video Mic has been optimised for high rejection of radio frequency interference, but we suggest you keep all transmitters, cell phones, pagers etc. at least two metres away to reduce the possibility of interference ruining your recordings.

### PAD Switch

- The VideoMic comes with a three position PAD switch which is located in the battery compartment (figure 9).



Figure 9 - Locating the PAD Switch

The PAD switch provides a 10dB or 20dB reduction in sensitivity which will reduce the amplitude of the output signal to your recording device (figure 10).

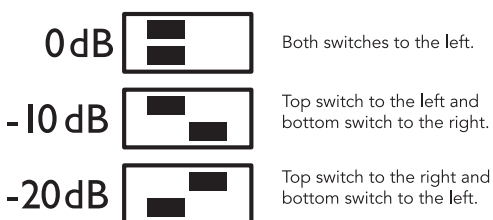


Figure 10 - Setting the PAD switch

# General Operation

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- The VideoMic comes with a foam windshield. There is no need to remove it, however if you ever do please take care not to rip it.

The windshield should be left on at all times as even the slightest breeze can cause sound interference. When shooting outside in heavy winds you may need to purchase a more specialised wind shield.

**RØDE** has a full line of accessories such as windshields, boom poles, cable extenders and pistol grips. Please visit our web site [www.rodemic.com](http://www.rodemic.com) for further details.

- Shotgun microphones such as the VideoMic have a narrow pick-up angle or polar response, and so can be used to great effect with cameras for news gathering, weddings or sporting events. The VideoMic can be used in any situation where you want to listen to what's in the shot, not what's at the side or out of view.
- Regular use of the VideoMic will provide you with better results as you become more familiar with its sound and pick-up characteristics.
- The VideoMic is made from high-strength ABS, ensuring impact resistance and a longer life, however care must be taken not to get the VideoMic wet.  
Treat the mic the way you treat your camera and you should have many years of reliable service.

# Support

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If you experience any problem, or have any questions regarding your **RØDE** microphone, first contact the dealer who sold it to you. If the microphone requires a factory authorised service, return will be organised by that dealer.

We have an extensive distributor/dealer network, but if you have difficulty getting the advice or assistance you require, do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Alternatively please visit [www.rodemic.com/support](http://www.rodemic.com/support) for contact details and a list of Frequently Asked Questions.



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