

Included Accessories:

- Cherrywood storage box
- Gold-accented shockmount

Recommended Optional Accessories:

- *The Pop* (brass mesh pop filter)
- *Kiwi*, *Cranberry* or *Blueberry* high-definition mic cable
- *Robbie the Mic Pre* Class-A vacuum tube mic preamplifier



Microphones

Step up to the mic.™

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Warranty

This Microphone or related part is warranted under the conditions outlined below to its original, registered owner, provided the purchase was made from an authorized Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE) dealer. This Microphone or related part is guaranteed to remain free from operating defects for three years from the date of purchase. In the event that service is required, all necessary parts and labor will be furnished free of charge during this period except for tubes, which are guaranteed for 90 days against defects. This warranty is void if the serial number has been altered, removed or defaced. The warranty is void if the equipment is altered, misused, mishandled, maladjusted, or is serviced by any parties not authorized by Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE). The warranty does not include transportation costs incurred because of the need for service unless arranged for in advance. Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE) reserves the right to make changes in design and improve upon its products without obligation to install these improvements in any of its products previously manufactured. This warranty is in lieu of any or all expressed or implied.

In keeping with our policy of continued product improvement, Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE) reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice.

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B L U E M I C R O P H O N E S



WOODPECKER™

PHANTOM POWERED RIBBON MICROPHONE



WOODPECKER

Congratulations on your purchase of Blue's Woodpecker microphone, a modern classic made the old-fashioned way – without compromise. The Woodpecker's gorgeous wood finish and unique active circuitry make it one of the most interesting and beautiful microphones you'll ever lay eyes or ears on. Beneath the luxurious exterior, you'll find that the Woodpecker is a precision-crafted recording tool, combining the low noise and superb detail of our Class-A discrete handmade electronics with the bold, larger-than-life smooth, intimate sound of our handcrafted aluminum ribbon pressure-gradient transducer. After just one listen, you'll realize that the Woodpecker is a cut (or a peck!) above other ribbon mics in its class.



In order to familiarize yourself with the Woodpecker's specialized and unique features, please take the time to read this manual, and be sure to try the suggested recording tips.

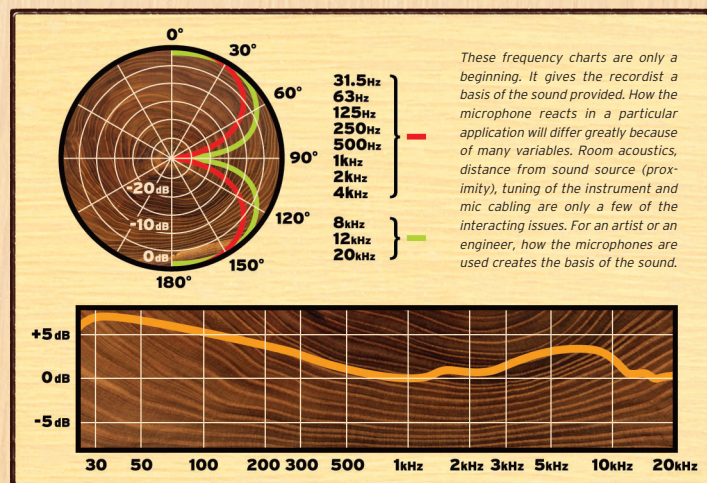
The Woodpecker was designed to provide the smooth, intimate sound associated with the most sought-after (and expensive) vintage ribbon microphones. With its focused mid-range and outstanding bass response, the Woodpecker captures the essence of any recorded sound. The Woodpecker also excels at ambient recording, capturing room tone with the most intimate detail – whether for rock drums, guitars or vocals – any application where some natural space in the recording is desired.



*The Woodpecker with
Robbie the Mic Pre*

To get the most out of this, or any quality microphone, it is essential to pair it with a good microphone preamplifier. Most professional recordists prefer to have outboard preamps on hand, and will choose solid-state or vacuum tube models based on their unique characteristics. To maintain the integrity of your signal, try using Blue's *Cranberry*, *Blueberry* or *Kiwi* high-definition mic cable along with Blue's outstanding Class-A vacuum tube mic preamp, *Robbie*. And, whenever possible, connect your pre's output directly to your recorder or A/D converter, bypassing the mixing board and any unnecessary components. The Woodpecker also includes a custom-designed gold-accented shockmount to isolate the transducer from the recording environment and reduce unwanted low-frequency resonance or rumble.

Polar & Frequency Response Charts



The Woodpecker requires 48 volt phantom power, which is standard with most mic preamps, mixing consoles, or separate phantom power supplies. It is important to note that some units, though rated at 48 volts, may supply insufficient or unstable phantom power, which can result in distortion and/or degraded performance when used with the Woodpecker.

To avoid damage to audio components when connecting phantom power, follow this simple procedure: 1) Turn down the mic preamp gain, headphones, and your studio monitors; 2) Connect microphone cable to the Woodpecker and microphone input jack; 3) Turn on phantom power; 4) Turn up the mic preamp gain, etc. To disconnect or re-route the Woodpecker: 1) Turn down the mic preamp gain, headphones, and your studio monitors; 2) Turn off phantom power and wait ten seconds before disconnecting the mic.

As a pressure-gradient ribbon microphone, the Woodpecker exhibits a bidirectional, or "figure-8" polar pattern. This means that the Woodpecker will respond equally to on-axis sounds arriving at either the front or rear of the mic with nearly 100% rejection of sounds arriving at either "null point" (90° off-axis).

As with any microphone, we recommend experimenting with placement in front of the various sound sources you wish to record. Chances are, if the mic sounds good to your ears, it'll sound good to everyone else's, but we certainly encourage trying out different placement scenarios in order to achieve that "perfect" sound. Below are some of the recording tips that we've found useful over our many years of studio experience.

Vocals



Here's a little-known secret – vocalists love singing into unique and impressive mics. And in addition to its good looks, the Woodpecker was developed especially to enhance the midrange and detail in any voice, while enhancing the proximity-induced lows. The Woodpecker is also an outstanding choice for narration and voiceover work. When recording vocals, always use a pop filter like the Blue's *The Pop* to minimize plosive sounds and to protect the ribbon from moisture.

Acoustic Guitar



Ribbon mics require careful placement when used on acoustic guitar, but the detail and superb response of the Woodpecker are well-suited to this job. For a balanced sound with a little extra high end, position the microphone facing the neck, right where it joins the body (usually around the 12th – 14th frets). For starters, keep the mic as close as possible, and tilt the grille toward the soundhole to capture a blend of low end and pick sound. If you need more lows, move the microphone closer to the soundhole. For more high end detail, move the Woodpecker farther from the guitar, either at the same neck position or above the instrument up by the guitarist's head.

Electric Guitar



The Woodpecker is an excellent mic for any clean amp sound, ranging from bright rhythm chords to warm jazzy tones. Rotate the grille toward the center of the speaker to capture more highs, or turn the capsule toward the edge of the cone for a fuller sound with more low end. For overdriven or distorted tones, move the mic towards the outer edge of the cone, or back it away from the amp a foot or more to add a little room sound and soften the extreme high end.

Drums



For kit and hand drums, begin by placing the microphone two to four inches above the rim or hoop (where the head is secured to the shell). Angle the capsule toward the player's stick or hand to pick up more attack and definition. Turning the capsule toward the shell will soften the sharp attack of a hand drum, or pick up more of the bright, crackling buzz from a snare. Moving the microphone closer to a drum generally increases the low end, shell resonance and separation from other sound sources, while more distant placement emphasizes the interaction of the drum and the environment, producing a blended, airier sound.

Percussion



On tambourine, shaker, bells, clave, and orchestral percussion, the Woodpecker offers astounding clarity and realism. And unlike most large diaphragm microphones, the Woodpecker can be positioned quite close to a percussive source without distortion or undue proximity effect. Start by placing the microphone about a foot from percussive instruments. Moving the mic closer will emphasize detail and tone, as well as decreasing the proportion of ambient room sound on a track. More distant placement will yield a natural, roomy sound that blends easily with other rhythm instruments.

Care and Feeding

Your Woodpecker's luxurious wood finish requires very little maintenance. You may wish to occasionally wipe the exterior wood surface with a damp cloth to keep it clean. Additionally, we recommend a mild furniture polish sprayed onto a cloth and gently applied by hand to the wood surface and the cherrywood storage box. **DO NOT SPRAY ANY SUBSTANCE DIRECTLY ONTO THE MIC SO AS TO AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH THE RIBBON!** With proper care and maintenance, your Woodpecker will last a lifetime. Enjoy!

It's Organic!

Because the Woodpecker's exterior is genuine wood, no two will be alike!



A high degree of variability in woodgrain patterns means that Woodpeckers may differ greatly from one another, and may not look exactly like the ones shown in the manual. So enjoy your particular Woodpecker – there's not another one exactly like it in the world!

Technical Specifications

Acoustical Operating Principal: *Pressure Gradient*
Directional Pattern: *Figure 8, Bidirectional*
Frequency Response: *20Hz – 20kHz*
Sensitivity (1kHz into 2.5k Ω): *26mV/Pa*
Rated Impedance: *50 Ω*
Rated Load Impedance: *Not less than 1k Ω*
Noise Level A-weighted (IEC 651): *Not more than 22dB*
Max Output (1% THD into 2.5k Ω): *10dBu = 2.5V*
Max SPL (0.5% THD into 2.5k Ω): *136dB*
Dynamic Range (2.5k Ω load): *114dB*
Supply Voltage (IEC 268-15): *+48V Phantom Power (+35V min.)*
Current Draw (typical at +48V): *2.4mA*
Weight: *1.6lbs*

