CROWLEY AND TRIPP MICROPHONES

Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Soundstage Image Microphone. This product has been engineered and built using all original components needed for the performance expected in demanding studio environments. We care about the Soundstage Image, and believe it will provide you with a versatile recording capability. Like any fine instrument, reasonable care will result in long service.

Each microphone is built in our lab by people dedicated to excellence. Hugh Tripp has personally machined parts, and Bob Crowley has personally tested every ribbon motor, transformer, and finished unit.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about the Soundstage Image. We take research, design, and development as seriously as customer service.

Bob Crowley Hugh Tripp

About the Soundstage Image

The Soundstage Image is a natural response ribbon microphone tailored for radio broadcast, soundstage, orchestral, and other applications requiring an uncolored sound. It is excellent for ambient recording and offers highly accurate stereo imaging in pairs for distant applications. It is a bi-directional, full size ribbon microphone housed in a durable stainless steel casing. It is an efficient instrument that delivers high output levels while maintaining a low noise floor.

The internal transducer is designed to tailor bass response without attenuating the overall output. This produces a frequency response that sounds full in the low and midrange. Utilizing an impedance-matched ribbon assembly, the microphone achieves an accurate high range response, ideal for capturing fast transients in vocals, acoustic instruments, and in concert halls.

The Soundstage Image ribbon microphone incorporates a matched, full size transformer that minimizes signal loss and maximizes output. The transformer is rigidly mounted to the ribbon motor assembly, eliminating resonance and tightening bass response. It is also oriented 90° to the long axis of the microphone, and is double shielded, to further reduce magnetic and radio frequency interference. This double shielding is important for broadcast and soundstage applications, where frequency-emitting equipment could negatively influence the signal.

Soundstage Image:
Features at a glance

- Natural frequency response
- Figure eight polar pattern
- High output microphone designed for vocal overdubbing, soundstage, orchestral, and other applications requiring an uncolored sound.
- All new design with innovative motor unit and a rugged stainless steel housing
- Transformer and ribbon motor rigidly joined for lowest noise, highest output, and smoothest bass response.
- Professional level electrostatic and magnetic shielding
- Symmetric frequency response minimizes off axis coloration
- Specifications compiled by an independent laboratory
- Hand built in the U.S.A. by people who understand the art of transducer engineering, tuning, and performance

Never blow directly into any microphone. Inform vocalists of this precaution.

Amplification

The Soundstage Image is a low noise microphone. The combination of its efficient transducer, robust shielding, and full size transformer give the microphone a low noise floor and output level equal to moving coil (dynamic) microphones. Certain ribbon designs have weaker magnets and less shielding, and require up to 30 dB of additional gain for optimum performance. This is not the case with the Soundstage Image. Most professional level preamplifiers with normal gain and high input impedance are well suited for the Soundstage Image.

The Soundstage Image, like all ribbon microphones, performs optimally with the least amount of loading on the ribbon element as practical. The higher the impedance input on the microphone, the better the low end and mid range frequencies are represented in the output signal. We recommend using preamps with impedance settings of 1000 Ohms or more. Contact us if you would like specific preamp recommendations.

The Soundstage Image is quite natural sounding and does not require coloration at the preamp stage for optimal performance. Preamps that provide simple, transparent gain usually provide the best results. However, you may prefer a more colored sound, and we encourage you to experiment to find the right combination that suits your taste.

The Soundstage Image is an acoustically driven ribbon microphone, which means that no power supply is required for its operation. +48 Volt phantom power will not burst the ribbon element, but over time, exposure to phantom power and switching transients will affect the overall output of the system. Therefore, disable this function when using the Soundstage Image.

The Proximity Effect

The proximity effect is an acoustic phenomenon that can be very useful in creative recording. Bass response increases as a function of microphone distance from the sound source. In a nutshell, the closer the microphone is to the sound source, the higher the bass response will be.

An understanding of the proximity effect enables the user to fine tune bass response. Appropriate placement of the microphone differs from application to application, and as with any microphone, the best way to hit the sweet spot for your application is to experiment with different distances and angles from the sound source while listening.

Weak, thin vocals can be significantly enhanced by reducing distance, and other instruments can be fattened, if desired. The Soundstage Image's pronounced proximity effect is great for voice over and broadcast applications. For vocals closer than about 8", a pop screen is recommended.

Care and Handling

The Soundstage Image is a precision instrument. It should be treated carefully to ensure reliable results during each session. To protect your Soundstage Image microphone, keep a few simple precautions in mind to ensure long term performance:

1. The Soundstage Image should be stored in its protective case when it is not in use. Leaving the microphone lying around will expose the ribbon element to dust and other airborne particles that can adhere to the inner assembly and decrease performance. This advice stands for all high quality studio microphones!

2. Never blow into any microphone to test it. We know you are already aware of this rule. Inform set-up crew, gaffers, vocalists, other performers, and visitors, before tracking.

3. When setting up the Soundstage Image, maintain a reasonable distance from fluorescent lights, power transformers, and other strong electromagnetic sources to avoid hum.

4. This is a full size microphone that weighs 1.35 lbs/ .61 Kg. Use a secure mount and stand and a good quality balanced, shielded XLR connecting cable.

Technical Specifications

Transducer Type – Velocity Ribbon

Housing Material – Stainless Steel

Characteristic Z @ 1Khz – 200 Ohms

Typical Load Z – 1000 Ohms

Polar Pattern – Figure 8, symmetrical

Frequency Range – 30 Hz – 15,000 Hz

Maximum SPL – 126 dB

Sensitivity – -50 dB @ 1 Khz

Weight – 1.35 lbs / .61 Kg

Dimensions – 6" H, 2" W,

Pin 2 High

"It would be possible to describe everything scientifically, but it would make no sense; it would be without meaning, as if you described a Beethoven symphony as a variation of wave pressure."

-Albert Einstein

Also Available from Crowley & Tripp

Studio Vocalist – Full size ribbon microphone with smooth rising response. Highest output of any natural ribbon microphone. Enhanced proximity effect for fattening weak vocals and other thin sources. Designed for a wide range of studio applications from vocals to amplifier cabinets.

Proscenium – Traditional response ribbon microphone designed for classical music applications. Warm sound reminiscent of vintage ribbon designs, but with a modern design and increased efficiency. Ideal where traditional ribbon warmth is desired, particularly effective in classical music applications and in concert halls.

SPLx - Our most robust ribbon microphone, capable of handling high sound pressure levels. Designed for rugged studio applications where close placement of the microphone is necessary to achieve the desired sound. Also for conditions where traditional ribbon microphones would be considered too delicate, with only a modest tradeoff in outpu

We are able custom build microphones to suit your specific recording needs. Please contact the lab to discuss features, specifications, and pricing.

Limited Lifetime Warranty

The Soundstage Image microphone

Serial Number_____

Is warranted to be free of defects in materials and workmanship. This warranty extends to the original purchaser and is recorded by filling out and sending the warranty registration card supplied with each new unit. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from accident, misuse or causes outside the control of Soundwave Research Laboratories.

Feedback

Contact us if you have any question, comment or issue with the Soundstage Image microphone. We will do what we can to help you successfully use this instrument for your recording needs. We are musicians and engineers too, and would like to hear your Soundstage Image recordings! Audio samples and user feedback are important for new product development.

Contact

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