

AS SEEN IN **HomeRecording****NADY**
SCM 1000*PRO AUDIO SOUND AT A LOW-BUDGET PRICE***by Carolyn Keating**

I admit it: I used to be a snob when it came to microphones. Only models from manufacturers such as Neumann, AKG, or B.L.U.E. with a price tag of \$800 or more would do for serious recording situations. Anything under \$500 was bound to be inferior.

Imagine my surprise when I dutifully tried out the incredibly low-priced Nady SCM 1000 studio condenser microphone and found it to be my new favorite mic. In fact, I preferred it over the Neumann I had auditioned for my vocals. The SCM 1000 brought up the resonant low midrange quality of my voice without altering the tone. It also beautifully captured the sonic characteristics of my acoustic guitar, without an unnatural boost in highs. Available for as little as \$149 at certain retail outlets, the SCM 1000 completely turned me around: It actually *is* possible to find an affordable, high-quality, large-diaphragm studio condenser mic!

VINTAGE LOOK

Famous for its wireless microphones, for which the company received an Emmy in 1996 for Outstanding Technical Achievement, Nady has expanded its line to include wired microphones such as drum, specialty, and studio mics. The SCM-1000 is the top of the line of Nady's SCM series and boasts a vintage look and feel. Hand-tooled from brass, the 1000's casing is

solidly constructed, and has a smooth finish that resists fingerprints. The manufacturer and model name engraved into the metal are a nice touch. At 15 oz., the mic has a comfortable heft, and it features sturdy, old-style switches to select between a low-cut filter, -10 dB attenuation pad, and multiple polar patterns (cardioid, figure-8, and omni). It's unusual to have these options in a budget mic.

THE SPECS

Designed for studio vocals, acoustic instruments, orchestras/choral groups, and live sound applications, the SCM 1000 has a frequency response of 20 Hz to 20 kHz and a FET (Field Effect Transistor) preamp for low distortion and a high signal-to-noise ratio. Its transformerless design provides an enhanced low- and high-end response and improved linearity across the frequency range. The 1.1" capsule houses two 3-micron-thick, gold-evaporated-on-Mylar pressure-gradient diaphragms for accurate transient response. Other features include internal shockmount construction, an output impedance rated at less than 200 ohms, and a maximum SPL (1% THD @1 kHz) of 134 dB.

The SCM 1000 requires 48V phantom power, which can be obtained from a mixing console, external mic preamp, or the optional phantom power supply. Other options are a spider mount, foam windscreen, and aluminum flight case. Clearly a cost-saving measure was the omission of the spider mount and



the flight case, and I suggest you spring for both. Spider mounts are designed to fit specific mics, and you need one for this mic. Also, the SCM 1000 comes in a cheap plastic flip-top box with a handle; such a beautifully finished, elegant-looking mic deserves a better setting.

FIELD TEST

For optimum performance, the manual suggests you let the mic warm up for 5 to 10 minutes. I tested it on a project I'm working on with a male singer: Both his and my vocals sounded accurate and clear, the mic capturing both the highs and lows without distortion. It also sounded great on acoustic guitar and saxophone, the latter for which we employed the -10 dB pad. The low-cut filter helped reduce proximity effect on my partner, who likes to sing close to the mic. I noticed in switching the mic polar patterns from omni to cardioid to figure 8 that

there were slight differences in tone quality. Omni sounded fantastic, bringing up a nice room resonance and capturing everything beautifully. Though the self-noise is a bit noticeable, I didn't find it to be problematic.

Some people have compared this mic favorably with a Neumann U 87, and I'm inclined to agree. The SCM 1000 gives you a warm, natural reproduction of the most subtle to slamming sounds. Do yourself a favor and check it out. There's no need to wait when you can afford a high-end mic at a bargain-basement price. **|||**

CONTACT

Nady Systems
6701 Shellmound St.
Emeryville, Calif. 94608
510-652-2411
fax: 510-652-5075
www.nadywireless.com
\$499