

RØDE NT2000

Where mics are concerned, one size definitely doesn't fit all – but have you considered one that offers variable polar response? **Pete Crisp** hits the Røde...

Being fortunate enough to own a high-end 'classic' mic will, for many of us, have to remain something of a pipe dream. There is, however, little reason in this day and age why we shouldn't all be able to afford a model that'll give great results without having to break the bank.

This has been largely down to manufacturers such as Røde, which manages to produce a seemingly never-ending stream of top-notch mics at highly reasonable prices. The latest addition to the range certainly appears to fall into this bracket: a large diaphragm condenser offering almost unlimited control over some of the most important recording parameters.

Shock and awe

The NT2000 arrives complete with large shockmount and a rigid plastic carry case. You could initially be forgiven for thinking that the mount looks a little fragile as it's constructed almost entirely from plastic. However, it performed well throughout testing, absorbing extraneous noise impeccably. It's helped in its task by the mic's own internal shock absorber that holds the one-inch, gold-sputtered dual diaphragm in place.

The gently tapered casing is finished in satin nickel – in keeping with the high standards we've come to expect from this company – with the steel mesh cage providing ample protection to the capsule.

To keep costs down, Røde has, on some of its other models, gone for simplicity in terms of features – single-pattern pickup and no low-cut switch, for example. That's certainly not the case here, however. The NT2000 sports three rather intriguing dials lined up vertically along its length. The lower two enable variable pad and high-pass settings to be adjusted, while the uppermost dial offers up to 10dB of attenuation.

The low-cut threshold is controlled by the centre pot, offering

a very useful 20Hz–150Hz range which will easily take care of the most common causes of low-end noise. You could also use it creatively, as the upper end of the range extends well into the frequency band of some instruments – although any sort of EQ should ideally be left until mixing, if at all possible.

Continuous control

However useful these controls are, it's the last of the three that gives the NT2000 its unique selling point. Rather than offering switchable polar patterns, the NT2000 enables you to continuously vary the polar response between omni, cardioid and figure-of-eight patterns. This means that you can fine tune a cardioid pattern, for example, to give a little extra rear sensitivity than you'd normally expect.

We tested the NT2000 against both Røde's own NT1A and a trusty Audio Technica AT4033. These are both cardioid-only models, so it was in this area that the first comparisons were made. The NT2000 was immediately richer when set to vocal duties, picking up subtle nuances that the other two – while they did a fine job – seemed to miss. Overall, the mic offers a very natural tone and the more you 'work' the proximity effect, the cosier the mic gets (but without becoming damagingly muddy). An acoustic guitar was next under the spotlight and here the NT2000 really shone, capturing everything with sharp definition. Experimenting with the controls enabled a wide variety of different results to be recorded from just a single mic placement.

Once again, Røde has come up with a mic that, in terms of quality, exceeds the price tag. There's a great deal of flexibility in the NT2000, making it a fine choice if you need a mic that will handle a multitude of different recording applications. Certainly, no one looking for multiple-pattern response and working to a tight budget can afford to ignore it. **MTM**



MUSIC TECH MAGAZINE
Recommended

NT2000

Manufacturer **RØDE**

Price **£450**

Contact **HHB**
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www.rode.com.au

SUMMARY

KEY FEATURES

- Variable polar pattern, pad, high-pass filter
- Phantom powered
- 1-inch gold sputtered dual diaphragm
- 20Hz–20kHz frequency response
- 136dB dynamic range
- Shockmount and case included

WHY BUY

- Natural tone
- Highly flexible
- Affordable

WALK ON BY

- Slightly different tonality back to front in figure-of-eight mode

VERDICT

A lovely sounding, versatile mic that won't break the bank.



METHOD SPOT

Write on the button

Being able to vary the polar response and low-cut so finely really makes the NT2000 a mic with huge potential. This can be a time-consuming task, but thankfully Røde has included a page in the manual that enables you to jot down any combinations of settings that you might otherwise forget.