Roswell Mini K47
Cardioid Capacitor Microphone

By concentrating only on the components that matter, Roswell have managed to create a classic-sounding mic with a budget price tag.

Roswell Mini K47 £235

**Pros**
- Affordable.
- Good-quality parts in all the critical locations.
- Handles vocals and most acoustic instrument sounds including percussion.

**Cons**
- No pad or filter switches.

**Summary**
Roswell have dispensed with unnecessary frills such as included shockmounts and camera cases to deliver a quality microphone at a budget price.

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**Alternatives**
The list of microphone designs and mic manufacturers that essentially take a Chinese-made capsule and team it with high-quality electronics to optimise performance, as Roswell have done, is growing all the time, and there are simply too many to list them all here.
low-cut EQ if you’re in the habit of miking the voice close-up. This is coupled with a slight sense of brightness but without any annoying peakiness in the upper mid-range, so you hear smooth but still detailed highs. To sum up as concisely as possible, you get a big vocal sound but without any obvious coloration — the flattery is subtle. Moving the mic far enough away to lose the proximity effect reveals a well-balanced sound that still retains plenty of weight. Any recommendation that you choose the K47 as a vocal mic comes with the usual caveat that you need to try a few different mics to see which best suits your voice, though the lack of aggressive presence-region voicing suggests that the mic may cope with a wider range of voice types than some of the more obviously voiced mics out there.

Acoustic guitar recorded well, too. As an experiment, I set up a gentle EQ dip to counter the natural presence peak of the mic, and found that I got something closer to the way the guitar actually sounded in the room. However, that gentle lift is often welcome in helping sounds cut through in a polite rather than aggressive way, and though many mics have an artificially brightened high end that can sometimes be useful in pop productions, you can easily EQ in a little extra air or ‘zing’ if you need it without losing the natural character.

On electric guitar, the recorded sound was a hint brighter than I heard in the room unless the mic was placed close enough for the proximity effect to kick in, but still very workable, balancing definition with adequate weight and requiring little in the way of EQ. The sound retained plenty of bite but without encouraging high-end fizz.

Set up as an X-Y stereo pair, the mics produced a stable centre image, though they could of course also be used as a spaced pair. The stereo matching tolerance also appears to be all that it is claimed. While I’m sure Roswell Pro Audio wouldn’t claim that you are getting a U47 clone, the mic definitely has tonal leanings in that direction because of the capsule design, while the transparency of the electronics leaves you plenty of flexibility when it comes to mix processing or EQ. A number of boutique manufacturers take the ‘modify a Chinese mic’ route and end up charging a lot more than you’ll pay for a Mini K47, yet you’re getting the benefit of Matthew’s extensive experience and attention to detail, and quality parts fitted in all the critical locations. Definitely a mic for your shortlist.

£235 each, matched pair (with shockmounts) £511. Prices include VAT.

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