

ROADTESTED
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SE Electronics SE1A

reviewed by Jason Buchanan

It takes a certain microphone to be able to capture that lovely sizzle of a hi-hat and to be honest I have never found many microphones that I have truly been happy with, especially live. Most condenser microphones you do get to use have often seen better days or

alternatively the microphones that you would love to use you would not take with 50km's of a live show. That preciousness that one has with ones gear seems to always kick in... or is it preciousness with ones finances... I think that is more like it. Basically I could probably associate two pencil microphones that I enjoy using that could possibly withstand the rigours of the road at the same time being able to perform in the studio with the quality that is required. So I get this box which has in it the SE1A from SE Electronics... so I gets a thinking... could this be what I have been looking for all these years... maybe... but I'm sure its going to cost me a nut... or god forbid... two. After

taking it out of the package I found it to be quite heavy and well built which was a very positive start.

Design

A small pencil style, the SE1A is perfect for acoustic guitars and can be easily manipulated into any position because of its size. Its steel shell makes it solid

for live use as well as studio applications and comes complete with a mike clip to house it on the stand. Great for hi-hats or as a pair would make some very handy overheads.

The Showdown

Apparently the insides have been upgraded from the previous model as well, so it can achieve a higher output without the associated noise problems, and I think this is what SE Electronics have tried to achieve with all the new models they are releasing. I tested it out at a live show and found it to be able to easily handle close miking the Hi-Hat and I pushed 12kHz and 15kHz to get that extra sizzle...

I think it was about this time that a comfortable and relaxed smile came across my face because at \$250 a pop, I thought that this mike wouldn't cut

the mustard, but it did... and did it well.

I also recorded an acoustic nylon string guitar to find that the response from the mike accurately portrayed what was happening at the instrument end and I could easily use it in combination with other microphones as it seemed to be a little more directional than say the Z2200A which I used for the room sound.

Up close near the sound hole it really captured the warmth of the instrument and when I shifted it to the neck the subtleties of the fingers were amazingly clear.

Frequency Response

Frequency Response: 30Hz-20KHz

Sensitivity: 10mV/Pa - 40 ± 2dB(0dB=1V/Pa 1000Hz)

Polar Pattern: Cardioid

Impedance: 300

Equivalent Noise Level: 17dB(A weighted)

Max SPL for 0.5% THD@1000Hz: 137dB

Power Requirement: Phantom power 48V±4V

Connector: 3-pin

Conclusion

This microphone is quite the little trooper. It is sturdy and from all accounts very reliable with a frequency response that rivals almost all of its competitors. Given that some of its competitors retail for almost

ten times this amount it would be stupid not to give it the once over next time you are checking out mikes. The SE1A is a pretty specific microphone if you need a specific acoustic or overhead microphone this will be perfect for those applications. A warm, vibrant sound yet still able to withstand some serious sonic punishment. Into my mike box you go!

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