



# STUDIO MICROPHONE OPERATIONAL GUIDE

Congratulations on your recent purchase of a professional microphone from Sterling Audio. To ensure exceptional customer service, please take a moment right now to fill out and mail your warranty card.

Here's how to care for your new microphone:

- Never subject your mic to physical shock.
- When using a shockmount, use the recommended models:
  - SM-3 for the ST31 (optional), ST33 (optional), and ST44 (included).
  - SM-4 for the ST51 (optional), ST55 (optional) ST59 (optional), and the ST66 (included).
  - SM-7 for the ST77 & ST79 (included).
- When recording vocals, use a professional pop filter such as the Sterling Audio PF1.
- To prevent damage from dust, clean your mic with a soft dry cloth before putting it back in its case.
- For more extensive cleaning, lightly dampen a soft cloth (add mild household soap if needed) and clean your mic's metal exterior. Wipe dry when finished.
- **Never spray a cleaning agent on the microphone itself, as moisture can damage the unit.**
- Avoid exposing your mic to any kind of moisture.
- Damaging buildup of breath condensation and saliva can be prevented by use of a windscreen.
- Avoid temperatures above 95°F and below 50°F.
- It's important to allow your microphone to acclimate to room temperature before use. This reduces the chance of condensation on the mic's diaphragm.
- Always keep the power supply away from moisture.
- **Never disassemble your mic. There are no user serviceable parts inside.**
- Never attempt to change the tube on the ST44 or ST66.

## ST31, ST33, ST51, ST55, ST59, ST77, & ST79

Like all condenser mics, the ST31, ST33, ST51, ST55, ST59, ST77, and ST79 microphones need +48V phantom power. If no +48V phantom power is available, use an external phantom power supply such as the Sterling Audio PHP1.

To avoid loud pops that can damage sensitive audio components, always perform the following steps in sequence when connecting these mics:

1. Turn the gain of your preamp and/or mixer all the way down.
2. Make sure that phantom power is disengaged.
3. Connect your microphone via a high-quality XLR cable.
4. Engage phantom power.
5. Turn up the gain on your preamp and/or mixer.

Before disconnecting your mic and/or cable, repeat steps 1 and 2 in sequence.

## ST44 & ST66

The ST44 and ST66 mics include a PSM1 power supply. It alone provides the additional voltage required to power the internal tube, as well as phantom power for the condenser capsule. As a side note, your ST44 or ST66 will not be harmed if you have to engage your mixer's global phantom power for other mics.

To avoid loud pops that can damage sensitive audio components, always perform the following steps in sequence when connecting these mics:

1. Turn the gain on your preamp and/or mixer all the way down.
2. Make sure that phantom power is disengaged.
3. Make sure that the PSM1 power supply is turned off.
4. Connect your mic to the PSM1 power supply using the included 25-foot, 7-pin cable.
5. Connect the output of the PSM1 power supply to your preamp or mixer channel. Use a high-quality XLR cable.
6. Turn on the PSM1 power supply.
7. Turn up the gain on your preamp and/or mixer.

Before disconnecting your mic and/or cable, repeat steps 1, 2, and 3.

## SENSITIVITY PAD

Most Sterling Audio microphones feature a pad switch that reduces sensitivity (-10dB on the ST55, ST59, ST66, ST79; -15dB on the ST33, ST44). These pads prevent microphone overload when recording extremely loud sources such as guitar amps or kick drums. Engage this switch if you hear distortion, or if you find yourself setting your preamp input unreasonably low. Otherwise, disengage the switch for optimal signal-to-noise ratio.

## ROLL-OFF FILTER

Most Sterling Audio microphones also feature a switch to roll off frequencies below 75Hz (150Hz on the ST79). This reduces or eliminates low frequency noise such as floor rumble, mic stand noise, passing trucks, etc. It can also eliminate undesirable boomy low-end frequencies due to close-mic'ed vocalists (also known as the "proximity" effect). This switch is labeled with the following symbols:

-  Roll-off filter disabled
-  Roll-off filter enabled