



# Blueberry



# picked fresh

Congratulations on the purchase of the Blueberry, Blue's modern classic microphone, engineered and crafted without compromise. Like its tasty namesake, the Blueberry is sweet, non-fattening and hand-picked at the height of perfection (though not recommended for pies!).

In order to familiarize yourself with the Blueberry's specialized features, please take the time to read this manual thoroughly and be sure to try the suggested recording tips towards the back of the manual.

The Blueberry is a pressure-gradient cardioid condenser microphone, employing Blue's single-membrane large diaphragm capsule. Each hand-crafted diaphragm features a 6-micron mylar film, sputtered with a mixture of pure gold and aluminum and tensioned to our own custom-built brass backplates. The end result of this painstaking process is a precision recording tool with superb transient response and a bright, airy top end.

First and foremost, the Blueberry has been designed to provide the commanding, intimate presence associated with the world's best (and most expensive) vintage vocal microphones. With its shimmering, detailed highs, smooth midrange and minimized proximity effect (a bass boost inherent in all unidirectional mics), the Blueberry excels at delivering a vocal right to the front of the mix where it belongs. When processed with limiting and/or compression – as is standard practice for most pop vocals – tracks recorded with the Blueberry will be free of pumping and low-end thumps. Acoustic guitar, hand percussion, drums and other high-end sources also shine in front of the Blueberry, gaining an extra presence that enables the most delicate sounds to cut through a mix, even at very low levels.



Inside the solid state Blueberry you'll find Blue's proprietary Class A, fully discrete hand-built circuit. With no ICs in the signal path, the Blueberry exhibits maximum detail and the lowest possible noise floor.

To get the most out of this, or any quality microphone, it is essential to pair it with a good microphone preamplifier. Most professional recordists prefer to have outboard preamps on hand, and will choose solid-state or vacuum tube models based on their unique characteristics. To maintain the integrity of your signal, try using Blue's *Cranberry*, *Blueberry* or *Kiwi* high-definition mic cable along with Blue's outstanding Class-A vacuum tube mic preamp, Robbie. Whenever possible, connect your pre's output directly to your recorder or A/D converter, bypassing the mixing board and any unnecessary components. Also, don't forget to check out *The Pop*, Blue's elegant and durable adjustable universal windscreen.

For mounting the Blueberry on a stand, a recessed, threaded socket is built into the Blueberry body, next to the XLR output jack. Use the included *Series 2 shockmount* to enhance positioning and isolate the microphone body from low frequency vibrations conducted through the stand.

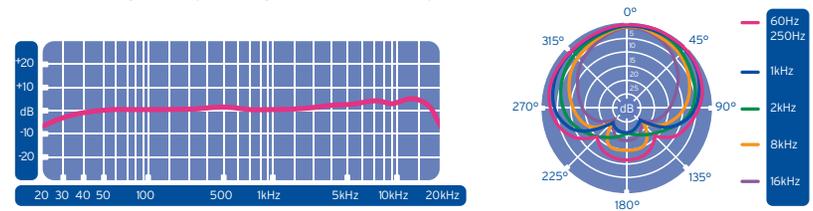
The Blueberry requires 48 volt phantom power, which is provided by most mic preamps, mixing consoles or stand alone power supplies. It is important to note that some units, though rated at 48 volts, may supply insufficient or unstable phantom power, which can result in distortion and/or degraded performance when used with the Blueberry.

To avoid damage to audio components when connecting phantom power, follow this simple procedure: **1)** Turn down the mic preamp gain, headphones and your studio monitors; **2)** Connect microphone cable to the Blueberry and microphone input jack; **3)** Turn on phantom power; **4)** Turn up the mic preamp gain, etc. To disconnect or re-route the Blueberry, **1)** Turn down the mic preamp gain, headphones and your studio monitors; **2)** Turn off phantom power and wait 10 seconds before disconnecting the mic.

Once the Blueberry is on the stand and powered up, make sure that the active, on-axis side of the capsule (the side of the mic with the Blue logo) is facing the desired sound source. Being a cardioid mic, the Blueberry is designed to reject off-axis sound arriving at the back of the capsule.

# natural

## Blueberry Frequency & Polar Response Charts



Now that you're ready to record, here are some tips that will allow you to get the most out of your Blueberry.

### Vocals

Here's a little-known secret – vocalists love singing into unique and impressive mics. And in addition to its good looks, the Blueberry was developed especially to enhance the airiness and detail in any voice, while diminishing the proximity-induced lows which can cloud a mix or produce compression artifacts. Put it in front of any singer and you are guaranteed to get a 110% inspired performance that sits perfectly in the mix with little or no additional equalization. The Blueberry is also an outstanding choice for narration and voiceover work. For "big" vocal sound with maximum presence, get the vocalist within one to three inches of the capsule. There is no need to worry about overloading the microphone capsule, but be sure to use a mesh windscreen like Blue's *The Pop* pop filter. Mount the Blueberry with a boom stand and tilt the capsule up (toward the forehead) for more projection and head tone, straight on at the mouth for maximum brightness and intelligibility, or down toward the chest for more robust lows and smoother highs.

### Acoustic Guitar

Large diaphragm mics require careful placement when used on acoustic guitar, but the Blueberry's transparency and superb transient response are well-suited to this job. For a balanced sound with plenty of sparkling high end, position the microphone facing the guitar neck, right where the neck joins the body (usually around the 12th- 14th frets). For starters, keep the mic as close as possible, and tilt the capsule toward the soundhole to capture a blend of low end and pick sound. If you need more lows, move the microphone closer to the soundhole. For more high end detail, move the Blueberry farther from the guitar, either at the same neck position, or above the instrument up by the guitarist's head.



## Percussion

On tambourine, shaker, bells, clave, and orchestral percussion, the Blueberry offers astounding clarity and realism. And unlike most large diaphragm microphones, the Blueberry can be positioned quite close to a percussive source without distortion or undue proximity effect. Start by placing the microphone about a foot from percussive instruments. Moving the mic closer will emphasize detail and tone, as well as decreasing the proportion of ambient room sound on a track. More distant placement will yield a natural, roomy sound that blends easily with other rhythm instruments.



## Drums

The Blueberry's fast transient response, crisp highs, and ability to handle high sound pressure levels make it an ideal mic for recording drums. For kit and hand drums, begin by placing the microphone two to four inches above the rim or hoop (where the head is secured to the shell). Angle the capsule toward the player's stick or hand to pick up more attack and definition. Turning the capsule toward the shell will soften the sharp attack of a hand drum, or pick up more of the bright, crackling buzz from a snare. Moving the microphone closer to a drum generally increases the low end, shell resonance, and separation from other sound sources, while more distant placement emphasizes the interaction of the drum and the environment, producing a blended, airier sound.



## Technical Specifications:

Transducer Type • Condenser, Pressure Gradient

Polar Pattern • Cardioid

Frequency Response • 20Hz - 20KHz

Sensitivity • 20.0mV/Pa at 1kHz (1Pa = 94dB SPL)

Output Impedance • 150Ω

Rated Load Impedance • >1 kΩ

Maximum SPL • 140 dB SPL (2.5kΩ, 0.5% THD)

S/N Ratio • 86 dB-A (IEC 651)

Noise Level • 9.0 dB-A (IEC651)

Dynamic Range • 131 dB (@2.5kΩ)

Power Requirement • +48V DC Phantom Power (IEC 268-15)

Weight • 520g

Dimensions • 235mm x 50mm x 30mm

### Included Accessories:

- Elegant wood storage box
- Series 2 Shockmount

### Recommended Optional Accessories:

- *The Pop* (brass mesh pop filter)
- *Kiwi*, *Cranberry* or *Blueberry* high-definition mic cable
- *Robbie the Mic Pre* – Class-A vacuum tube mic preamplifier





Microphones

Sound thinking.™

sweet

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## Warranty

This Microphone or related part is warranted under the conditions outlined below to its original, registered owner, provided the purchase was made from an authorized Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE) dealer. This Microphone or related part is guaranteed to remain free from operating defects for three years from the date of purchase. In the event that service is required, all necessary parts and labor will be furnished free of charge during this period except for tubes, which are guaranteed for 90 days against defects. This warranty is void if the serial number has been altered, removed or defaced. The warranty is void if the equipment is altered, misused, mishandled, maladjusted, or is serviced by any parties not authorized by Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE). The warranty does not include transportation costs incurred because of the need for service unless arranged for in advance. Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE) reserves the right to make changes in design and improve upon its products without obligation to install these improvements in any of its products previously manufactured. This warranty is in lieu of any or all expressed or implied.

In keeping with our policy of continued product improvement, Baltic Latvian Universal Electronics (BLUE) reserves the right to alter specifications without prior notice.

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