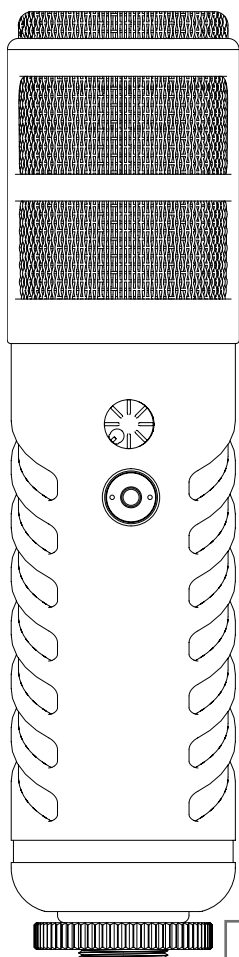


RØDE
MICROPHONES



Instruction Manual



interstage

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- pro audio with a smile





Thank you for investing in the **RODE** Podcaster, the world first broadcast sound quality USB microphone.

Those of you who are first time **RODE** customers, you may be interested to know that we are one of the largest and most respected professional microphone companies in the world. Our studio microphones are the 'tone' behind some of the biggest hits of the last decade and our award winning live performance microphones are on tour daily throughout the world.

When looking and listening to our microphones many people ask "How can **RODE** achieve this level of quality and performance at such reasonable prices when others can't?" The answer is simple and logical. **RODE** spends millions of dollars on R&D. We have the best automated machinery and incorporate high volume production technologies. When you invest as we do, the costs drop dramatically. We pass on these savings to our customers and have been doing this with our studio microphones since 1992. This philosophy has seen us win multiple national and international awards for performance and quality and is why **RODE** stands alone in the industry for an unbeatable combination of quality performance and price.

The **RODE** Podcaster has been designed for any application where recorded voice clarity and direct digital connection is demanded. Designed with Podcasting as a main use, this revolutionary microphone is also perfect for adding voice-overs while editing digital video, and for the 'on location' reporter who can quickly record on a laptop and then simply e-mail this to the studio for instant broadcast.

Just plug in the **RODE** Podcaster with the supplied USB cable, launch your recording or video editing program and begin. It is that simple. For expanded control, download the Podcaster software (available from www.rodempodcaster.com).

In the following pages, you'll find a detailed description of the features of the **RODE** Podcaster, as well as step-by-step instructions for its setup, and full product specifications.

As a Podcaster owner you now have full access to the site www.rodempodcaster.com. This site offers hosting as well as other interesting podcasting information.

If you have any questions or comments, you can log onto our website: www.rodemic.com where there are answers to frequently asked queries as well as our contact details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Freedman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P'.

Peter Freedman,
President of Rode Microphones



Specifications

Acoustic Principle:

Dynamic 28 mm

Active Electronics:

Analogue signal conditioning + A/D and USB interface.

Pickup Pattern:

Cardioid.

Frequency Response:

40 Hz ~ 14 kHz.

Sensitivity:

-51 dB re 1 Volt/Pascal (2.8 mV @ 94dB SPL) +/- 3 dB

Maximum SPL:

115 dB

Signal/Noise:

> 78 dB

Analogue Output I/F:

Headphone audio output for monitoring.
Drives 150mW into 32Ω. Output level adjust.

Digital Output Interface:

USB

Resolution:

18 bits

Audio Control I/F:

AC97

Power Requirements:

Power supplied from USB port.

Weight:

610g (21.5 oz)

Packed Weight:

1025g (36 oz)

Dimensions:

Length: 215mm (8 ⁷/₁₆")

Height: 56mm (2 ³/₁₆")

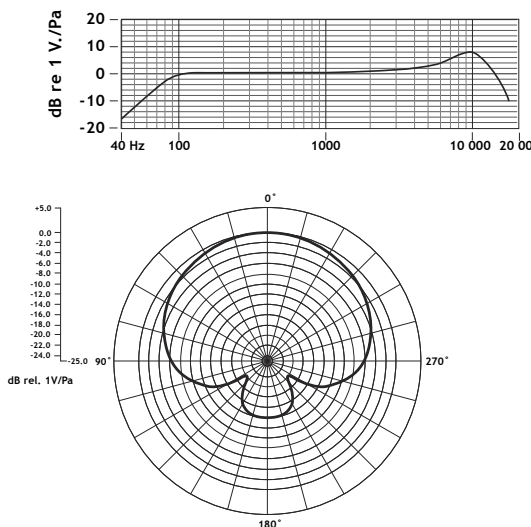
Width: 52mm (2 ¹/₁₆")



Specifications cont.

Frequency range:

40 Hz - 14kHz



Features

- High quality broadcast sound.
- Dynamic capsule.
- 18-Bit Resolution, 8KHz to 48KHz sampling.
- Windows and Mac compatible.
- Tight Cardioid pattern for superior off axis sound rejection.
- Powered from USB Bus.
- Includes Microphone Stand Mount and a 3m (40") USB cable.
- Internal capsule shock mounting.
- 3.5mm stereo headphone jack output with volume control.
- Designed & manufactured in Australia.
- Full 10 year guarantee* (Conditions apply, see page 17)



Podcaster layout

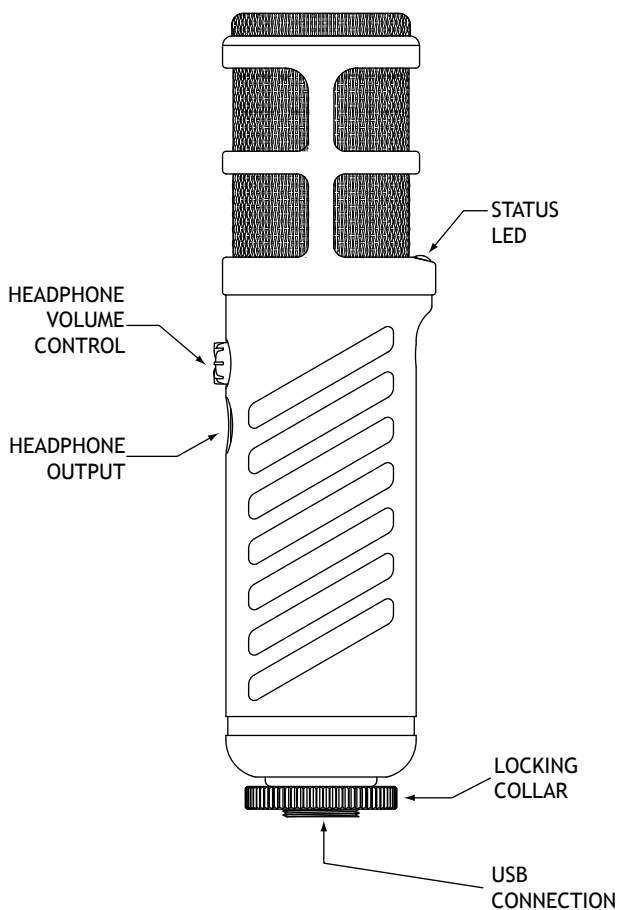


Fig. 2



Installing the Podcaster

There are two ways that you can install your Podcaster depending on how much control you wish to have over your recording.

As your Podcaster is USB compliant, by simply connecting your USB cable to the microphone and your PC or MAC, you will be able to record through your Podcaster by using the standard audio interface controls in your operating system.

However, if you would prefer a more professional level of recording control, please read the following instructions on how to install and operate the **RØDE** software.

This software will enable everyone from a first timer to a seasoned professional to quickly fine tune their recording environment and improve their sound.

Using Podcaster on a MAC OS X using existing MAC software

1. Plug one end of the USB cable into the microphone and the other end into your USB port on the MAC. The LED will flash red and then go green to indicate that everything is functioning correctly with USB power. The MAC will recognise the USB audio device and automatically install a universal driver.



Fig. 3

2. To select the Podcaster as the computer's new audio input, open the 'System Preferences' from the dock or the main Apple Menu (figure 3).



Using Podcaster on a MAC OS X
using existing MAC software cont.



Fig. 4

3. Next open the 'Sound Preference' and click the 'Input' tab and select 'Rode Podcaster' (figure 4). This will allow you to use your Podcaster through the existing sound recording software on your MAC. To enhance the features of your Podcaster we recommend you install the additional software which can be download from the podcaster web site.

Go to: www.rodapodcaster.com for more information.

To download and install this software, please refer to the 'Installing and using Podcaster software" section of this manual.



Using Podcaster on a Windows XP system using existing XP software

The following example is for setting up the Podcaster in Windows XP with Service Pack 2. Other versions may vary slightly.

1. Plug one end of the USB cable into the microphone and the other end into your PC. The LED should flash red and then go green to indicate that everything is functioning correctly with USB power. The PC will recognise the USB audio device and automatically install a universal driver.



Fig. 5

2. Access 'Sounds and Audio Devices' through the Control Panel. This is usually done by going to Start/Control Panel and selecting the 'Sounds and Audio Devices' icon. Click on the 'Audio' tab which will bring up 3 options. Under the 'Sound Recording' option, you should now be able to select 'Røde Podcaster' as your default device (figure 5).

3. This will allow you to use your Podcaster through the sound recording software on your PC (go to www.rodepodcaster.com for information on various recording software programs). To check that you have the Podcaster set as your recording device, go to Edit/Audio/Properties, and check that 'Røde Podcaster' or 'USB Audio Device' is showing up under 'Sound Recording'.



Using Podcaster on a Windows XP system using existing XP software cont.

To adjust the recording level, click the 'Volume' button under 'Sound Recording'.

To enhance the features of your Podcaster we recommend you install the additional software which can be download from the podcaster web site.

Go to: www.odepodcaster.com for more information.

To download and install this software, please refer to the 'Installing and using Podcaster software' section of this manual.

Using Podcaster on a Windows 98 system using existing Windows software

1. Plug one end of the USB cable into the microphone and the other end into your PC. The LED should flash red and then go green to indicate that everything is functioning correctly with USB power. The PC will recognise the USB audio device and automatically install a universal driver.
2. Access 'Sounds and Multimedia' through the Control Panel. This is usually done by going to Start/Settings/Control Panel/Sounds and Multimedia/Audio. This should then bring up 3 options. Under the 'Sound Recording' option, you should now be able to select either 'USB Audio Device' or Røde Podcaster'.
3. This will allow you to use the Podcaster through your sound recording software on your PC (go to www.odepodcaster.com for information on various recording software programs). To check that you have the Podcaster set as your recording device, go to Edit/Audio Properties, and check that 'Røde Podcaster' or 'USB Audio Device' is showing up under 'Sound Recording'. To adjust the recording level, click the 'Volume' button under 'Sound Recording'.



Using Podcaster on a Windows 98 system using existing Windows software cont.

To enhance the features of your Podcaster we recommend you install the additional software which can be download from the podcaster web site.

Go to: www.rodepodcaster.com for more information.

To download and install this software, please refer to the "Installing and using Podcaster software" section of this manual.

Installing and using Podcaster software

To use the Podcaster as a simple recording microphone it is merely a matter of connecting it to your computer. If you want to explore, enhance and control your recordings then we have created additional software which will allow you to do this.

You can download this software free of charge from the Podcaster website (www.rodepodcaster.com).

Once you have download the file to your computer, double click on the icon to get started. Your computer should automatically come up with a 'Podcaster Install' window. Follow the instructions to install your new software.

Once you have the Podcaster software installed you can now run the **RØDE** Podcaster software and setup your recording environment.

When you run the software, the 'Podcaster' window will appear (figure 6).



Fig. 6



Installing and using Podcaster software cont.

The **RØDE** Podcaster software window contains the following information.

Recording Volume.

The 'Recording Volume Control' slider, (located on the left hand side of the panel), allows you to adjust your recording level.

LED Level Meter.

The LED Level Meter, located on the right, visually displays the mic's input signal. The louder the signal the more LED Level bars will light up.

Mute Button.

The 'Mute Button', located at the bottom of the window, allows you to mute the mic's input signal when you are playing back your recordings.

Getting the Sound Level Right

The first step in setting up your recording environment is to get a good 'Sound Level' on your equipment. This is done to ensure that you do not exceed the level of sound that your equipment can handle before it distorts the signal and at the same time, ensuring that the sound is not too low and indistinguishable.

By adjusting the Recording Volume Slider you should be able to set a reasonable level very quickly.

The way to do this is to set the Podcaster up in front of you and raise the slider control while you are speaking at the same level you will use when recording. The LED Level meter on your computer will show green; and then when it starts to reach its limit, orange indicators will activate. If the red indicator activates, you have exceeded the limits of the input and the signal will distort. At this stage you should turn the level control down until the indicator only lights up a steady green and the occasional flash on the orange.

Your recording will now be set at a useful level. Experimentation with this will allow you to fine tune your recordings over time.



Operating and Powering the Podcaster

The Podcaster is powered through the USB port and eliminates any need for an extra external power source.

When the Podcaster is first connected to the computers USB port, you will notice that the light on the Podcaster will turn Red for a fraction of a second and then it will turn to green and it should stay green until you disconnect your Podcaster. The green indicates that the Podcaster is powered and active and ready to be used for your recording purposes.

Talking into your Podcaster

The Podcaster is an end address microphone. This simply means that to get the clearest sound, you must talk directly into the front of the microphone. When you are talking into the microphone you should be able to clearly see the green status LED. (Refer figure 7).

The capsule in the microphone has what is classed as a 'cardioid' pickup or polar pattern. This means that it will predominately pick up the sound in front of the capsule, however if the sound source was coming from the side, it would also pick up that sound, but the sound would be faint and 'washed out' compared to the sound coming in directly from front of the capsule.

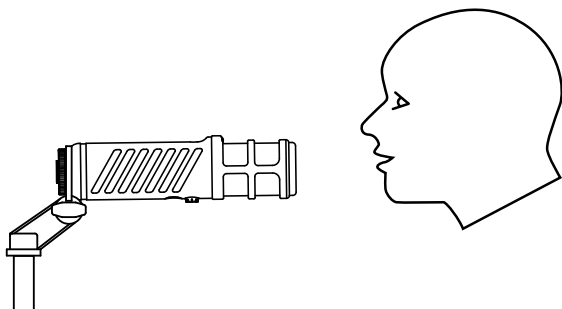


Fig. 7



Where to Place my Podcaster?

You will find that where you position your Podcaster, will alter the quality of the sound.

Environment and background noise will vary every time a microphone is moved to a different location. The most successful method to optimise the sound you want is to try various positions and isolate the recording environment from external noise sources as much as possible.

The proximity effect causes an increased base response when you are closer to the microphone. This can be used in a positive way to enhance the quality of your voice.

If you would like to learn more on how to setup your podcaster visit the **RØDE** podcsater website (www.roddepodcaster.com) and view the online tutorials.

Connecting Headphones to your Podcaster

One of the cool features of your Podcaster is an in-built, high level, headphone amplifier.

Simply connect the 3.5mm jack from your headphones, and adjust the volume control on the microphone and you have direct monitoring of the sound from the microphone.

The advantage of connecting the headphones directly to the microphone is that you are able to 'hear' exactly what you are recording before the recording software. This allows for more accurate fine tuning and should reduce the need to re-record as problems can be detected earlier in the recording preocess.



Mounting your Podcaster

The Podcaster comes with a stand mount that will allow you to connect it to a microphone stand.

The mount comes with a 3/8" brass insert that can be removed. Once removed the internal thread of the mount is a 5/8" thread. This allows the mount to be used on either a US 5/8" stand or pole or a Euro 3/8" stand or pole.

Also on the mount is a thumb screw which when loosened will allow the mount to rotate to enable you to angle your microphone to the most appropriate direction.

To mount the microphone into the clip follow the steps below.

1. Remove the locking collar from the base of the microphone.
2. Slide the base of the microphone into the hole in the stand mount (figure 8).
3. Screw the locking collar back onto position, carefully secure the Podcaster to the mount (figure 9).
4. Now, loosen the thumbscrew on the stand mount and adjust the microphone to the desired angle. Once set, tighten the thumbscrew to secure the microphone in place.

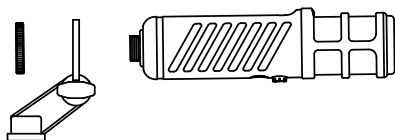


Fig. 8

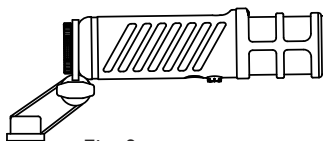


Fig. 9



Using the Optional PSM1 Shock-Mount

For additional isolation the Podcaster can be fitted on the optional PSM1 'spider' shock mount. These are recommended and are a useful addition to any recording facility as they significantly reduce unwanted noise transmission to the microphone. If you have the optional PSM1 shock mount, then follow the steps below to install the PSM1.

1. First screw the PSM1 shock mount onto your mic stand or boom arm. If you're using a US 5/8" mic stand or boom, remove the 3/8" insert.
2. Remove the locking collar from the base of the Podcaster and store it away in a safe place where it will not get lost.
3. Install the Podcaster into the PSM1 by fitting the microphone into the center of the web and onto the bottom mounting plate (figure 10). There is a captive locking collar in the centre of the shock mount which will screw onto the thread on the bottom of the Podcaster.
4. Rotate the captive locking collar to secure the Podcaster firmly in the shock mount (figure 11).
5. Loosen the thumb screw on the PSM1 shock mount to adjust the angle of the Podcaster and position it to the desired location. Once set, tighten the thumbscrew to secure the Podcaster in place.

Note: Be careful not to over tighten the thumbscrew as this could cause cross threading and the mount will not maintain the correct angle if this occurs.

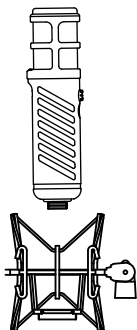


Fig. 10

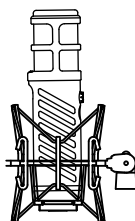


Fig. 11



Warranty Service

The **RØDE** PODCASTER comes standard with a 1 year warranty from the date of purchase. You can extend that to a **FULL TEN YEARS** if you register online at www.roddepodcaster.com.

The warranty covers parts and labour that may be required to repair the microphone during the warranty period.

The warranty excludes defects caused by normal wear and tear, modification, shipping damage, conforming to mandatory standards or failure to use the microphone as per the instruction guide.

If you experience any problems or have any questions regarding your microphone, first contact the dealer who sold it to you. If the microphone requires factory authorised service, that dealer will organise a return.

We have an extensive distributor/dealer network but if you have difficulty getting the advice or assistance you require, do not hesitate to contact us directly or contact your local distributor.

International:

RØDE Microphones.

Unit 2/107 Carnarvon Street
Silverwater NSW 2128 Australia
Ph: 61 2 9648 5855
Fax: 61 2 9648 2455

USA:

P.O. 4189
Santa Barbara, CA 93140-4189
Ph: 805 566 7777
Fax: 805 566 0071

Technical Support:

For information and technical support
questions contact:
support@rodemic.com

In the United States and Puerto Rico, contact:

support@rodemic.com
Ph: 805 566 7777

In Australia, contact:

support@rodemic.com
or call: (02) 9648 5855

Anywhere except Australia, the United States
and Puerto Rico, contact:

support@rodemic.com
Australia: 61 2 9648 5855

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