

# Apex181 USB Powered Studio Condenser Microphone



## Apex181 Specifications:

**Type:** USB Condenser Microphone

**Polar Pattern:** Cardioid

**Frequency response:** 30 Hz to 20 kHz

**Sensitivity:** -40dB

**S/N Ratio:** 76dB

**Max SPL:** 125dB

**Power Requirement:** USB low-power device (26 mA)

**Resolution:** 16-bit

**Connection:** USB

**Dimensions (in):** 7.5 (L) x 1.875 (dia)

**Dimensions (mm):** 190 (L) x 40 (dia)

**Weight (oz/g):** 17 / 464

### Apex181 USB Studio Condenser Microphone

The Apex181 USB Microphone outfit is a highly affordable studio quality condenser mic with an integrated audio USB interface.

Designed to seamlessly connect to any computer based recording package, the Apex181 studio condenser microphone that can be plugged into any USB port without the need of any additional audio interface, phantom power supply or mic pre-amp. The only connection required is a standard USB cable. (Included)

The Apex181 features a 20mm internal shock mounted diaphragm with a highly versatile cardioid pick up pattern. By design, the Apex181 works perfectly on any OS-X or WindowsXP based PC or laptop running any DAW software. It provides an ideal audio capture solution for highly mobile laptop users, which may have no direct input method for high quality audio devices without carrying additional hardware interfaces.

The Apex181 USB mic is not only ideal for music applications, but also for Podcasting, broadcast and for students or professionals creating audio files for websites and multimedia presentations.

#### Features:

- Plugs in directly to any USB equipped computer running Mac OS-X or WindowsXP
- Perfect microphone for Podcasters, broadcast applications, ENG and music applications
- Smooth, flat frequency response
- Cardioid pickup pattern
- 20mm diaphragm
- Heavy gauge mesh grille
- USB connection cable included

#### Installation and Operation

Installing the APEX181 is a simple procedure. Since the APEX181 is USB compliant, you can use either a MAC running OS-X or any PC running WindowsXP. Simply connect the microphone to a standard USB port using the included USB cable and plug and play. You will be able to control your APEX181 using the standard audio interface controls in the MAC OS or Windows operating system.

Since it is possible to adjust the level of the signal from the operating system preferences, and in your recording software, it's a good idea to be familiar with these controls in the MAC or Windows operating system. Therefore, we recommend that you follow the enclosed instructions for either Windows XP or MAX OS-X before installing the APEX181 software driver.

#### Setting up the APEX181 in MAC OS X

Plug in microphone. The LED will light to indicate it is receiving USB power. The MAC will recognize the USB audio device and automatically install a universal driver.

To select the APEX181 as the computers audio input, open the **System Preferences** from the dock or the main Apple Menu.

Next open the **Sound Preference** and click in the Input tab and select **APEX181**.

#### Setting up the APEX181 in Windows XP

*(with Service Pack 2 - other versions may vary slightly.)*

Plug in microphone. The LED will light to indicate it is receiving USB power. WindowsXP will recognize the USB audio device and automatically install the universal drivers.

The APEX181 is now recognized as a Windows audio device under the name APEX181. To set it as the default device and change computer-controlled gain, access control panel.

Access Sounds and **Audio Devices** through **Control Panel**.

Select APEX181 as **Sound Recording Device** in the **Audio Tab** window. You may also have to select the microphone in most pro audio programs where multiple devices must be set within the program.

To set the microphone Gain, click the Volume button. The Wave In window sets the computer controlled gain, pan and microphone mute.

#### Powering the APEX181

The APEX181 is a condenser microphone, and like all condenser microphones, it has internal electronics that require an active power supply. Traditional studio condensers are almost always powered by a Phantom Power supply, from a mixing console or external pre-amp. The APEX181 receives its power from the USB bus. Simply connect the microphone to the computer's USB port and the microphone is ready to operate. The APEX181 features a blue power LED, which will illuminate when USB power is present.

#### Microphone Placement

A cardioid polar pattern like that used in the Apex181 is generally the standard for most applications. A cardioid pattern will deliver best results on most vocal recordings and on a wide range of solo instruments. It offers full frequency response on the front of the microphone and the advantage of proximity effect (increased low frequency response when microphone is placed close to sound source\*). A cardioid pattern also provides excellent noise rejection from the sides and back, or 180-degree position of the microphone, minimizing feedback and interference from other audio sources.

*\*Vocalists can use the proximity effect to their advantage, adding fullness and more 'bottom end' to the voice as they move closer to the microphone. Experienced vocalists can easily incorporate it as part of their overall microphone technique. Experimentation with mic placement during the recording process is the key.*

It may be advised that in some applications that a pop filter like the Apex MWS-55 or Apex MWS-56dix be employed to reduce overly prominent 'P' and 'B' sounds.



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