

## SPACE 103

Welcome to a new world of recreated classic microphones – classic tone without compromise.

Perfect for vocals, instruments, and broadcasting with its silky smooth top end, impressively pronounced mid-range, and defined low end. The Space 103 could be your 'desert island' microphone!

Ultralow noise, high sensitivity, high dynamic range, and impressive SPL mean you can record very quiet, nuanced performances with detailed accuracy as well as very loud sources such as guitar amps without distorting the source material.

High caliber components, a robust all metal exterior, and its distinctive, elegant appearance make this a high-value asset for your studio. A uniquely versatile and stylish microphone with an expensive sound, without the price tag!







RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE NE PAS OUVRIR





The lightning flash with an arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated hazardous voltage within the device's enclosure, which may be of sufficient magnitude to induce a risk of electric shock to persons.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the device.

CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK) NO USER-SERVIDEABLE PARTS INSIDE REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL ATTENTION POUR EVITER LES RISQUES DE CHOC.

ATTENTION: POUR EVITER LES RISQUES DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE: NE PAS SENLEVER LE COUVERCUE. AUCUN ENTRETIEN DE PIECES INTERIEURES PAR L'USAGER.COMFIER L'ENTERETIEN AU PERSONNEL QUALIFIE. AVIS: POUR EVITER LES RISQUES D'INCENDIE OU D'ELECTROCUTION. N'EXPOSEZ PAS CET ARTICLE AL PLUIE OU À L'HUMIDITE.

#### Important Safety Instructions

- 1. Read this manual thoroughly before using this unit.
- 2. Keep this manual for future reference.
- Take notice of and comply with all warnings included in the user's manual or indicated on the appliance.
- 4. Follow all instructions included in this manual.
- Do not expose this unit to rain or moisture. Avoid having water or other liquids spilled on this unit.
- 6. Do not block any ventilation openings or interfere with the proper ventilation of this unit. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 7. Do not use or store near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other heat-producing appliances.
- 8. To avoid the risk of electrical shock, do not touch any exposed wiring while the unit is in operation.
- 9. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- Unplug this microphone and all connected electrical equipment during lightning storms or when left unused for a long period of time.
- 11. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the appliance has been damaged in any way or fails to operate normally.

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#### Introduction

Firstly, congratulations on your purchase of the ICON Pro Audio Space 103 studio condenser microphone! In these pages, you'll find a detailed description of the features of the Space 103 studio condenser microphone, as well as instructions for its setup and use in addition to a full list of specifications.

Please register the product on our website at the link below www. iconproaudio.com/registration

As with most electronic devices, we strongly recommend you retain the original packaging. In the unlikely event that the product is returned for servicing, the original packaging (or reasonable equivalent) is required. With proper care and adequate air circulation, your Space 103 condenser microphone will operate flawlessly for many years to come.

We trust that this product will provide years of excellent service and in the unlikely event that your product does not perform to the highest standard, every effort will be made to address the issue.

## What's in the package?

- Space 103 studio condenser microphone
- Shock Mount



# Register your ICON Pro Audio product to your personal account

#### 1. Check the serial number of your device

Please go to <a href="http://iconproaudio.com/registration">http://iconproaudio.com/registration</a> or scan the QR code below



Input your device's serial number and the other information on the screen. Click "Submit".

A message will pop up showing your device information such as model name and its serial number. Click "Register this device to my account". If you see any other message, please contact our after-sales service team.

# 2. Log in to your personal account page for existing users or sign up for new users

Existing user: Please log into your personal user page by inputting your

user name and password.

New user: Please click "Sign Up" and fill in all the information.

#### 3. Download all useful materials

All your registered devices under your account will show on the page. Each product will be listed along with all its available files such as drivers, firmware, user manuals in different languages and bundled software etc. for download.

#### Features

The Space 103 is an ideal choice for studio and broadcast use. Like all Space series microphones, it is inspired by the original now classic design, which has become a staple in recording studios around the world. With its bold, contemporary design, extremely high grade components and at a fraction of the cost of the original, the Space 103 offers excellent value.

The Space 103 can be seen as a modern-sounding, supercardioid-pattern-only alternative to the classic '87' style microphone, much like the original '103' style microphone it is inspired by. Its sound is well-balanced, featuring a pronounced and open midrange, silky smooth high frequencies, and a defined, smooth bottom end. The overall sound is so well-rounded that it typically requires less EQ than expected, naturally "popping" in the mix.

This microphone excels on a wide range of sound sources, including speech, vocals, drums, guitar amps, and piano. It is outstanding on classical instruments such as cello and double bass, capturing deep, melodious resonances effortlessly. Those with rich, low voices will appreciate how it enhances their sound, providing a luxurious, complimentary tone.

Equally at home in broadcast settings, the Space 103 captures detail with remarkable accuracy, offering a transient response that rivals extremely expensive large-diaphragm condenser microphones.

With incredibly low self-noise of only 8dB-A, the Space 103 is among the quietest microphones available, even when used with budget preamps, audio interfaces, or vintage tube equipment. It is highly sensitive, capturing quiet, nuanced sources with accuracy - the low noise contributing to the clarity and definition of the captured audio.

Despite this sensitivity, it can handle sound pressure levels of up to 138dB without requiring pre-attenuation, so it is ideal for recording loud sources such as guitar amps and drums. Its impressive dynamic range of 123dB makes the Space 103 highly versatile, capable of capturing everything from a soft whisper to a thunderous bass drum without introducing noise or distortion.

The Space 103 faithfully translates great musical performances to recorded media in a pleasing and natural way. Whether you're recording drum overheads, guitar amps, vocals, orchestral and acoustic instruments or broadcasting to the world, the Space 103 is not only a valuable addition to your microphone collection, but also a "desert island" microphone you'll treasure for years to come.

- Silky smooth top end, pronounced and open mid-range with a defined and detailed bottom end
- Supercardioid pattern microphone perfect for vocals, instruments, voiceovers and broadcasting
- Extremely versatile
- Pressure-gradient transducer with shock-mounted capsule
- Low noise floor enables the mic to record quiet and intimate material
- Top-quality components including WIMA capacitors and Fairchild resistors
- Impressive dynamic range of 123dB ensures both loud and quiet sounds are captured without compromising detail or introducing distortion
- High sensitivity ensures intricate nuances are captured with clarity and precision, with a high output level
- Ultra-low self-noise of only 8dB-A ideal for recordings that demand detail and subtlety
- Transformer design minimizes distortion and enhances transparency, resulting in a clean, uncolored sound
- Capable of handling up to 138dB SPL, perfect for recording loud sound sources like drums or guitar amplifiers without distortion
- Compact, all-metal rugged design ensures durability while maintaining an elegant, professional appearance
- Robust and durable shock mount

# Operating the Space 103

## **Powering the Space 103**

The Space 103 is a condenser microphone and therefore needs to be operated by connecting a phantom power supply. Phantom power is standard on most quality mixers, outboard mic preamps, and hard disk recorders. If necessary an external phantom power supply can also be used. The Space 103 receives the phantom power directly from a microphone cable when connected to a mixer or other microphone input that includes a phantom supply. The power is actually sent OUT through the microphone INPUT, riding silently along with the audio signal. Most mixers have a switch to engage the phantom power so be sure to check that the phantom power is on.

**Safety Warning:** Please ensure any speakers are at a minimal level or turned off when connecting your microphone. Headphones should not be worn when connecting any equipment to protect your ears in the event of audio anomalies such as feedback.



## Setting up the signal level

When connecting the Space 103 to a mixer or recorder input, be sure that the input is of an acceptable/low level. Most mixers and recorders of reasonable quality will offer a microphone input with MIC trim (usually called Trim or Gain) control. The purpose of the MIC trim control is to optimize the amount of good signal to any noise associated with the mixer's electronics. A good MIC pre with trim will also have a Peak or Clip LED. To set a good level on the MIC, set the Space 103 up in front of the desired sound source and slowly raise the MIC trim control until you see the Peak LED light up. Then, turn the mix trim control down until the LED does not light any more. On most mixers, the ideal setting is that the trim control is turned up as much as possible without lighting the Peak LED.

## **Microphone Placement**

In order to maximize the sound quality, you must pay careful attention to the placement of your Space 103 and how it is positioned for the instrument or vocalist that you are miking. All microphones, especially unidirectional or supercardioid microphones, exhibit a phenomenon known as the "proximity effect". Very simply put, proximity effect is a resulting change in the frequency response of a microphone based on the position of the microphone capsule relative to the sound source. Specifically, when you point a supercardioid microphone (or a microphone such as the Space 103 with the supercardioid pattern selected) directly at the sound source (on-axis) you will get the best frequency response. However, when you start pointing the microphone slightly away (off-axis) you will notice the low frequency dropping off and the microphone will start to sound thinner.

For most vocal applications you'll want to position the microphone directly in front of the artist when the Space 103 is used for vocals using the supercardioid pattern. The same may be true for miking instruments. However, you can make some pretty amazing equalization adjustments by slightly changing the angle of the capsule to the sound source.

## P-Popping

P-Popping is that annoying pop sound that you can get when the microphone diaphragm gets a blast of air from a vocalist pronouncing words with the letter "P" included, (because it is a "plosive" syllable). Use a good quality pop shield to help eliminate these unpleasant sounds.

## Components

iCON Pro Audio does not make microphones that simply look like their famous ancestors and don't deliver. Using exceptional components and paying homage to the original design, the Space 103 is robust, durable and sounds beautiful. Classic tone without compromise.

Here is some brief information on some of the components and the companies that have supplied them;

#### Fairchild resistors

You know the name and you know it is indelibly connected with the revered, world famous Fairchild 660/670 compressor, used in Abbey Road (then called EMI studios), for many of The Beatles recordings, but did you know they make small components for microphones like the Space 103? Fairchild are of course well known for the exemplary quality of their products and attention to detail - their resistors being no exception.

#### **WIMA** capacitors

Hailing from Germany, WIMA is the world's foremost specialist in capacitors and has been in operation since 1948. They are also the world's leading manufacturer of capacitors and have an enviable reputation in this field. No wonder then, that we have used their engineering expertise for our Space 103!

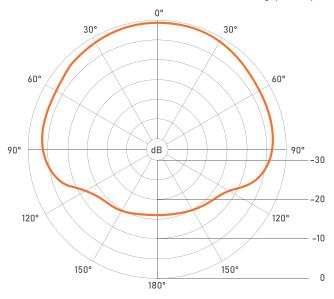
# Mounting the Space 103

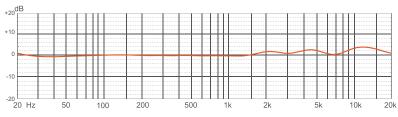
Mount your Space 103 into the provided shock-mount clip as the illustration below demonstrates.



# **Specifications**

Transducer type	electrostatic
Operating principle	pressure gradient
Diaphragms diameter	34mm
Frequency range	20Hz to 20kHz
Polar pattern	unidirectional,supercardioid
Sensitivity at 1 kHz into 1000 Ω load	40dBV/pa
Output impedance	50Ω
Rated load impedance	1000Ω
Suggested load impedance	>500Ω
Maximum SPL for 0,5% THD at 1000 Ω load	138dB
S/N Ratio DIN/IEC 651 A-weighten	84dB-A
Equivalent noise level DIN/IEC A-weighten	8dB-A
Dynamic range	123dB
Phantom power voltage on pin 2&3 of XLR	+48V(±2V)
Current consumption	<5mA
Output connector	3-pin XLR male
Dimension	60mm X 60mm X 125mm
	2.26"(L) x 2.26"(W) x 4.92"(H)
Weight	0.374kg (0.82lb)





#### Services

If your Space 103 needs servicing, follow these instructions.

Check our online Help Center at http://support.iconproaudio.com, for information, knowledge, and downloads such as:

- 1. FAQ
- 2. Download
- 3. Product Registration
- 4. Video Tutorials

Very often you will find solutions on these pages. If you don't find a solution, create a support ticket at our online Help Center at the link below, and our technical support team will assist you as soon as we can.

Navigate to <a href="https://support.iconproaudio.com">https://support.iconproaudio.com</a> and then sign in to submit a ticket. Once you have submitted an inquiry ticket, our support team will assist you to resolve the problem with your ICON Pro Audio device as soon as possible.

To send defective products for service:

- 1. Ensure the problem is not related to operation error or external system devices.
- Pack the unit in its original packaging including end card and box. This is very
  important. If you have lost the packaging, please make sure you have packed
  the unit properly. ICON is not responsible for any damage that occurs due to
  non-factory packing.
- 3. Ship to the ICON tech support center or the local return authorization. See our service centers and distributor service points at the link below:

If you are located in the **United States** please visit our help centre -

https://support.iconproaudio.com and submit a ticket to the technical support team.

If you are located in **Europe**, please email the support team and wait for a response before sending the product to:

Sound Service GmbH European Headquarters Moriz-Seeler-Straße3 D-12489 Berlin

Telephone: +49 (0)30 707 130-0 Fax: +49 (0)30 707 130-189

E-Mail: service@sound-service.eu

If you are located in **Hong Kong** please email the support team and wait for a response before sending the product to:

#### **ASIA OFFICE:**

Unit F, 15/F., Fu Cheung Centre, No. 5-7 Wong Chuk Yueng Street, Fotan, Sha Tin, N.T., Hong Kong.

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For additional update information please visit our website at: www.iconproaudio.com



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