

Austrian Audio MiCreator Studio

£189+

Simon Arblaster asks if this is an ideal all-in-one solution for producers on the go?

CONTACT WHO: Austrian Audio **WEB:** austrian.audio/micreator **KEY FEATURES** Cardioid condenser capsule, up to 48kHz/24-Bit recording, Max SPL: 130 dB **I/O:** 3.5mm TRRS input/output, 3.5mm TRS output, USB-C **DIMENSIONS:** 155 x 60 x 37 mm **WEIGHT:** 370g



Recently we've seen countless small-size USB microphones hit the market, most pitched at delivering on one front – podcasting.

However, not everything that's small, USB-connected or mic-shaped is aimed at capturing just the spoken word. Take for instance, MiCreator Studio from Austrian Audio: equal part condenser microphone and audio interface housed in a reassuringly weighty chassis. Aimed at podcasting, interviews, singer-songwriting, studio recording and all-round content creation, MiCreator Studio looks like it can turn its hand to pretty much anything you throw at it. The unit itself includes a cardioid condenser capsule, which is shock-mounted within a tiltable halo, giving off retro bottle mic vibes. The front panel is adorned with a push button rotary knob that can control signal balance between mic and input and volume. With a switch for a high and low gain settings and muting the mic. Around the rear is a USB-C port; 3.5mm TRRS in/out to connect a mono signal such as guitar or link to another microphone (more on this later); a 3.5mm TRS output; and high or low gain settings for the input. On the under side is a 3/8 thread for attaching to a mic stand and rubber feet for desktop use.

In all the use cases we could think of testing it in, MiCreator Studio performed admirably well. Recording guitar and vocals in the studio was made all the simpler with the inclusion of a bespoke TRRS to 1/4" jack cable; though it's worth noting that the 1.5m long cable doesn't look to be shielded and is quite flimsy. However, it is braided so it should last. There's even a 3/8 to 5/8 thread adapter, which was ideal as you can never have too many of them knocking about.

The mic also comes bundled with codes for Steinberg Cubase LE (iOS and desktop), or Wavelab Cast for desktop only. Plumping for Cubase LE, we found the beginnings of a solid mobile rig was starting to form. The idea of expanding on the MiCreator Studio is further bolstered by the addition of two extra microphones that are sold separately. The MiCreator Satellite, a TRRS microphone that features the same tiltable condenser capsule but is



This brand is fast becoming synonymous with quality

passive with none of the control of the Studio. Then there's the MiCreator Y-Lav microphone which is simply a TRRS lavalier mic and windshield. Both mics feature headphone outputs for monitoring and our priced £89 and £49 respectively.

Then there's the complete System set which features all three mics, cables and adapters with the added bonus of a t-bar, called the Minibar, and a carry case, which will set you back £279. Using the Minibar you can easily set up both Studio and Satellite mics for stereo recording. Our only misgiving here is that there is no windshield to cope with recording outdoors. If Austrian Audio could include that then you could easily head outside for a spot of hassle-free field-recording with your smartphone. The solid metal chassis is certainly strong enough to take the rigours of life on the road and won't take up too much space. However, we

have slight misgivings about the interchangeable faceplates, which feel a bit like a gimmick.

Aesthetics aside, Austrian Audio has fast become a brand synonymous with high quality recording and monitoring. MiCreator Studio is no different, and ideal for producers on the go. **FM**

FM VERDICT

8.5

A top-notch mic in a tidy, useful package that will take a good kicking. Paired with the bundled software this is a useful mobile system

THE PROS & CONS

+

Amazing clarity and sound quality

Expandable system with plenty of extras included in the box

A high SPL for capturing loud sources

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Customisable plates feel like a gimmick

Despite the plentiful accessories, there's no windscreen or dead cat