



Abstract from the test report of the "Xound", 4/2006

Let us begin with vocals. It is immediately obvious that with the TLM 49, those at the Neumann company have addressed the theme of vocals in great detail. The vocal sound transmitted by this mic almost seems to be already mixed. Everything seems very present and refined; the vocals at once make their presence felt in the mix and come across very directly. The lower mid-frequencies and basses provide a solid foundation for the sound and an appropriate degree of warmth, while all remaining very differentiated. The mid-frequencies are transmitted with a very fine resolution and provide for the necessary transparency in the overall sound. The highs put the "icing on top" – they seem very open and brilliant, with the sound always attaining a refined silkiness. Breathy voice sounds of course benefit particularly from this.



In the test with acoustic guitar, the volume suddenly achieved by the guitar is immediately apparent; one feels one is right in the body of the guitar. The guitar sound seems very balanced and precise, but at the same time pleasantly smooth and warm. For anyone looking for hard attacks, this is the wrong mic – here even explosive attacks seem to be wrapped in velvet and silk. The dynamics of the TLM 49 are equally impressive. No matter what one plays, whether energetic strumming, very soft arpeggios, hard or restrained power chords, finger picking or the like, this microphone follows the impulses exactly. And here again is the phenomenon of the guitar sounds immediately making their presence felt in the mix, without the aid of any EQ or compressor.

Conclusion

The Neumann TLM 49 truly provides finest-quality sound with the look and feel of the good old times – "Retro at its best", in fact. The concept is fully developed. Our test has shown that in any case, vocals and acoustic guitar are two of the domains of this microphone – however, I am convinced that the TLM 49 would also do very well in front of a guitar amp, or with a snare, bass drum, etc. I also find it very good that with a price of 1,560 euros, those at Neumann have made this mic and hence top-quality sound available to almost everyone.