

Marantz MPM-4000U £80

Plug and play podcasting mics have never been more popular. **Jon Musgrave** hooks up this latest design from Marantz Pro

CONTACT WHO: Marantz Pro **WEB:** marantzpro.com **KEY FEATURES** Back electret cardioid condenser, 14mm pure aluminium-plated diaphragm **FREQ RESPONSE:** 30Hz - 18kHz **SENSITIVITY:** 25mV/Pa **MAX SPL:** 130dB (at 1kHz 1% T.H.D) **BODY:** Solid die-cast construction **OUTPUT:** USB-C **A-D CONVERTER:** 8 to 48kHz at 16-bit **DIMENSIONS:** 168 x 46mm **WEIGHT:** 0.37kg



Podcasting and video casting are now so popular we continue to see a plethora of tailored products. A dedicated mic needs to be perfectly designed for desktop use, sonically tuned for speech plus features such as integrated audio interfacing. Up for review I have the latest podcasting design from Marantz Pro. The MPM-4000U Podcasting Mic is a USB-powered cardioid condenser with integrated 2-in 2-out USB audio interfacing. It's designed for computer, tablet and phone use and I found it worked fine on my iPhone without any additional powering.

The box includes the mic and mic clip, a foldaway tabletop mini tripod and a 3m USB-A to USB-C lead. The tabletop tripod is quite lightweight, which isn't ideal, however it's very compact once folded away, which makes transportation easy. Use of a standard mic clip thread means you can, if required, use any standard mic stand. Rounding out the package is some free software (AIR plugins and MPC Beats) which you can download once you've registered the mic.

MPM-4000U has a USB-C connector on the bottom and no further output option so you have to use it with a USB-equipped device for both audio connectivity and power. In this respect, having a decent length (3m) cable in the box is a good thing. On the bottom you'll also find a 1/4" mini jack output; meanwhile the on-axis side of the mic includes mic gain, headphone level and mic mute.

When you plug up the mic, there's a green activity LED and this switches red when the mic is muted, which is handy. Plus, being a USB class-compliant device, you only need to plug up and you're away. Alas, what you won't find is any form of direct or zero latency monitoring, so your monitoring will be at the mercy of your software and this will mean an annoying latency if you want to listen to yourself on headphones. What's more, with no regular mic output you can't opt for a hardware based solution to this. Nevertheless, on the plus side, the mic does sound pretty good for speech, and with a limited proximity effect, I found it handled reasonably close positioning without plosives becoming a problem. Further positives include the fact the mic delivers an identical output to both



THE PROS & CONS



Mic is well suited to spoken voice

Integrated USB interface

Foldaway desktop tripod

Can be powered by small devices such as smart phones



No integrated zero latency monitoring

Mute button imparts a noticeable click

It handled reasonably close positioning without plosives becoming a problem

inputs 1 and 2 on your DAW. What's more, in use I got a roundtrip latency of 7.3ms at 32 sample buffer size. Not bad at all.

Aside from the lack of zero latency monitoring, the only other gripe I have is that the Mute button imparts quite an obvious click when engaged. This means you'd probably have to avoid using the mute when live casting, which is certainly frustrating. These points aside, the MPM-4000U has plenty going for it and clearly offers decent functionality at a very affordable price. **FM**

FM VERDICT

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Looking for an affordable plug-and-play USB mic solution for your casting masterpiece? The MPM-4000U ticks a lot of boxes