

# SE Electronics Z2200A

reviewed by Jason Buchanan

Recently I have had the pleasure of testing out quite an extensive range studio condenser microphones, and have revelled in what will be sure to become a definite past time for me. Not too far back I did a live show where I used a particular condenser for overheads and too my absolute pleasure found it to be one of the best microphones I had used for this purpose to date and it was priced very handsomely indeed. So a few months back I was introduced to SE Electronics series of microphones and I think the crew at Amber Tech wanted to make a pretty good impression with this relative new comer to the Aussie scene, by giving me the Gemini, a dual valve microphone, which for me, literally destroyed any other microphone I had previously used. So when the Z2200A rocked up last week it was a matter of seconds before it was out of the box and tracking vocals or whatever I could throw it in front of.

## Construction

This is a very weighty and robust condenser microphone and gives a fantastic low-noise signal and has beautiful vocal representation captured by a large 1" gold vacuum plated diaphragm. The electronics have been redesigned from previous models to improve the signal to noise ratio, and even when gained up, this microphone remains incredibly quiet. On the microphone itself there is a switchable 100Hz low cut filter and a -10dB pad to cater for those high gain guitar rigs or metal singers. To protect your new microphone, SE Electronics have packaged it in an aluminium padded travel case and have included a shock mount for positioning the mike on the stand.

## Tech Specs

Although I never really judge a microphone on the specs, those of you who do can see below what the Z2200A is capable of, but to be honest you should try one out because this is where the real performance aspects are.

Type: large diaphragm condenser  
Frequency Response: 20Hz-20KHz  
Sensitivity: 14.1m V/Pa -37±1.5dB  
Polar Pattern: Cardioid  
Output impedance: < 100 Ohms  
Output Noise: < 17dB typical, (A weighted)  
THD: < 0.5% at 130 dB SPL  
Power Requirement: Phantom power 48V±4V

Connector: 3-pin  
XLR Size: 51mm×178mm

## The All Important Performance

I thoroughly tested the Z2200A out on vocals and the clarity was just amazing. I loved the way it truly represented the room sound and captured those particular characteristics. This microphone really has the ability to recreate the finer details. When it came to guitar cabinets, and I always love throwing a condenser on a screaming guitar rig, it was as good as the Neumann I had used to bed most of the tracks just two weeks prior. The mid range was where I focussed mostly on it had that tonal response that you need when recording guitars yet didn't become over saturated with the guitar at high volumes. Even the bass response the mike gave me when positioned in front of the bass cabinet was quite impressive. I didn't get to try it on drums but judging from the sizzle I got on the vocal tracks and the guitar tracks, I think that the Z2200A would be more than comfortable as a drum overhead. This particular market area of condenser microphones has become quite competitive recently, but I do believe we more of them popping studios across Australia in the months to come as they have been getting a solid response from engineers overseas.



## Conclusion

I remember a time when using high quality condenser microphones meant that you had either hired them in, which meant sooner or later they had to be returned, or you had just sacrificed you left or instead and probably would never be the same person again, but SE Electronics have really nailed it in regards to their pricing with this microphone retailing for only \$495. That's ... I couldn't believe it either but seriously it stacked up to any other microphone I A/B'd it against including ones that retail for over \$2000. They are solidly constructed so they won't be easily damaged and I'm sure that for the right venue they would work wonders in most live applications as well. If you are looking at purchasing a condenser microphone then check out the entire SE Electronics range at [www.seelectronics.com](http://www.seelectronics.com) for a detailed run down.

RRP \$495, DISTRIBUTED BY AMBER TECHNOLOGIES  
For more details call 02 9452 8600 or email [sales@ambertech.com.au](mailto:sales@ambertech.com.au)