

# KM84



*Neumann KM-84i  
small diameter condenser.*

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## NEUMANN KM-84 CARDIOID SMALL DIAMETER CONDENSER

Neumann's FET-80 series were the original 48V phantom powered mics. The KM-84 consists of the KK84 cardioid capsule and the FET-80 amplifier body. The i version denotes an XLR male connector.

The KM84 is known for its extended flat frequency response and very uniform off-axis response. The cardioid pattern is uniform at all frequencies, meaning sounds coming from the sides sound natural though at reduced volume. The newer KM184 lost the ability to interchange capsules, and introduced a deliberate high frequency peak to brighten the sound. My personal preference is a flat mic and if something needs EQ, do it in the mix. If I could afford a large collection of mics, perhaps I'd change my mind.



The KM-84 is my go-to mic because it sounds open and natural on nearly any source. It doesn't emphasize anything and it doesn't miss anything. It's predictable and not quirky. It's also one I've worked with a long time. Familiarity breeds respect for a dependable tool.

In my test setup it doesn't measure as flat as Neumann specifies. Firstly, there is a large cardioid LF proximity boost from the extremely close working distance. There is a dip around 10 KHz which I suspect is due to the proximity of the speaker to the rear ports. This is an area for further investigation. Matched pair, consecutive serial numbers. Sound sample here.

Green KM-84 #1, Cyan KM-84 #2, Yellow EMM-6 omni reference

