

More of Gary's Thoughts on Microphone Choice

Looking at the AT Pro-35 frequency response you may ask:

Why use a microphone that only responds up to 15,000 Hertz?

The answer is this:

The open E string on a violin is 659.26 Hertz. The first octave on the E string is 1318.52 Hertz. The highest fingered E note on the E string is 2637.02 Hertz. That note is about an inch from the end of the fingerboard. Even while playing the highest fingered E note on the violin, our mic will reproduce the next 2.5 octaves of harmonic content.

Our testing:

We tested a DPA 4009 (cost of mic alone = \$599) alongside the AT Pro-35, by mounting them together on the gooseneck attached to our Dahlia 5-string violin. The output for both mics was patched into our Pendulum MDP-1 microphone preamplifier to our 24 bit digital recorder.

The playback system consisted of the following: digital to analog conversion accomplished by a Benchmark Media Dac-1. Then, on to a Nelson Pass J-2 amp powering a pair of Magnepan 3.6 planar speakers. If you know monitor gear you know that Pass amplifiers and Magnepan planar speakers are among the lowest distortion, flattest response gear on the planet.

When we A/Bed the mics, it took a few times going back and forth to tell the difference. After more time comparing the AT and DPA mics we agreed that the DPA was a tad (but just a tad) more detailed. All things considered, we chose the AT Pro-35.

Think about it:

Even if you're playing Carnegie Hall, no one will be able to tell the difference unless you're playing solo. And in that case, you wouldn't use a microphone at all - you'd use a Stradivari violin!

DPA Microphone option:

If, however, you'd prefer our FiddleJack with a DPA microphone, add \$499 to the existing price, and call me at 800-741-3045 to special order.

