



Peluso
P67

Can Peluso's new nine-pattern P67 re-create those coveted 60s tube tones? **Huw Price** finds out.

P67

Manufacturer **Peluso**
Price **£1,699**
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For those of you who are unaware of Peluso, here's a brief overview. The company buys its hardware from China then fills the empty chassis with bespoke circuits, quality components, custom output transformers and capsules that are assembled and tuned in-house.

In essence, then, Peluso places more emphasis on its microphones sounding great than looking great. However, build quality is actually very high and the P67 – like its stable mates – comes with a wood box, a suspension mount, a dedicated power supply (with a nine-pattern switch) and a metal flight case.

- Key Features**
- Type: condenser pressure gradient w/ 34mm capsule
 - Frequency range: 20Hz/20kHz
 - 9 switchable polar patterns (omni- to bi-directional)
 - Sensitivity: 18 mv/pa
 - Impedance: 200 Ohms
 - SPL: 148dB with 10dB pad engaged

Peluso has worked its way through the canon of classic microphones, producing near-replicas that offer authentic audio characteristics at a fraction of the cost of the genuine article. The P67 is Peluso's version of the Neumann U67, complete with onboard bass roll-off and attenuation pad switches.

The U67 dates from the early 1960s and no condenser microphone that has been in continuous use for decades will sound like it did when it was new. Additionally, all vintage U67s will have aged in different ways, so Peluso decided that the P67 should replicate the way U67s sounded when they left Neumann's factory.

New for old

Peluso had access to U67 frequency and impulse response measurements taken in the anechoic chamber at Shure Brothers back in the 1960s. What's more, they had access to one of Shure's actual test microphones, which had remained unused since it was new.

Sourcing identical components and re-creating the original printed circuit board might seem like the obvious solution, but current components aren't always made to the same standard as the 50s and 60s equivalents. The original EF86 pentode valve used in the U67 is a case in point. Although EF86s are still manufactured, modern versions cannot reliably provide the same signal-to-noise ratio and low microphony as Neumann's specially selected Telefunken EF86s.

Peluso's alternative is a Russian-made 6AK5. This super-low-noise pentode with gold and platinum grids is still used in Russian nuclear warheads, which made them hard to get hold of in sufficient quantities. Although the 6AK5 has very similar specs to an EF86, a slight output transformer modification was also required.

Getting connected

We have previously criticised the use of flimsy seven-pin Cannon connectors on valve microphones, and Peluso's valve mics are changing over to heavy-duty medical-grade screw on connectors. The P67 comes with this new connector as well as a custom-made cable that's double-shielded with twisted-pair audio conductors.

This reviewer is fortunate enough to have used Neumann U67 microphones extensively and the P67 doesn't disappoint. We were hoping for an unfussy, general-purpose microphone

Measuring Up

A few years ago Neumann finally relented and gave vintage U67 fans the reissue they'd been begging for. Sadly it's no longer in the Neumann catalogue and the closest equivalent is the TLM67 (£1,999). TLM stands for 'transformerless', so the output stage is fundamentally altered and there's no valve. Another tubeless and transformerless microphone that aspires to be a U67 soundlike is the JZV67 (£1,999). Compared to other classic mics, U67-inspired designs are less common. You could check out the Korby Convertible with a KAT67 capsule (£4,195).

with a thick, velvety midrange, solid bass and smooth high frequencies. That's exactly what the P67 delivered, albeit with perhaps a touch more tinsel in the high frequencies.

It's much brighter and less specialised than the Peluso 2247 and, although not quite as airy as the Peluso P12, the P67 has more midrange body. The sonic character of the P67 changes between patterns but there's no weak spot. In omni the sound is even rounder, sweeter and more natural, with figure-8 providing maximum focus.

Approximation effect

In cardioid the proximity effect is extremely workable. Unlike some mics with M7-style capsules you don't have to be miles away to overcome the proximity effect, but there's plenty available up-close for fat, intimate but non-boomy vocals. U67s are also firm favourites for recording electric guitar because they combine detail with a smoothed-over sense of enhanced reality. The P67 lived up to our hopes.

In our experience, Neumann U67s are much like U87s. You can put one in most situations and get a useable sound straight away, but where a U87 might sound pretty good, a U67 will often sound wonderful. That sums up our time with the P67. It's not fussy about placement; it makes recording easy and it just works – really well! **MTM**

MTM Verdict

- WHY BUY**
- + Sumptuous sound quality
 - + Ease of use
 - + Pad and HPF switching
 - + Extremely low noise floor
 - + High-quality connectors
 - + Competitive price

WALK ON BY

- Brighter than vintage U67s

The P67 is everything most of us would hope a valve microphone to be – and maybe a little bit more.

