

Phantom power is DC voltage sent down the microphone cable to power the microphone's electronics and capsule. It uses the three cables of a balanced microphone:

- ▶ Pin 1 - ground
- ▶ Pin 2 - the positive DC voltage along with the positive audio signal
- ▶ Pin 3 - the same positive DC voltage along with the negative audio signal

The term 'phantom power' comes from measuring the DC voltage across Pin 2 and Pin 3 which will read 0 Volts DC.

Phantom power can be between 9 – 52 volts and your microphone's specifications will state the minimum phantom power requirement. The voltage does not affect the microphone signal and it will not damage dynamic microphones, but can damage certain ribbon microphones.