Let us begin with vocals. It is immediately obvious that with the TLM 49, Neumann have addressed the theme of vocals in great detail. The vocal sound transmitted by this microphone almost seems to be already mixed. Everything seems very present and refined; the vocals at once make their presence felt in the mix and come across very directly. The lower mid-frequencies and basses provide a solid foundation for the sound and an appropriate degree of warmth, while all remaining very differentiated. The mid-frequencies are transmitted with a very fine resolution and provide for the necessary transparency in the overall sound. The highs put the "icing on top" – they seem very open and brilliant, with the sound always attaining a refined silkiness. Breathy voice sounds of course benefit particularly from this.

In the test with acoustic guitar, the sound quality achieved by this microphone immediately appeared; the flavor is very close to the feeling of the guitar. The following sections show that the TLM 49 can also be used for electric guitar, which can be heard in the test section. No signal position can be transmitted in the test section, although the sound quality is very well defined, and the signals are not distorted. For anyone who is interested, I refer to the official Neumann website for more information.

Conclusion

The Neumann TLM 49 truly provides finest-quality sound with the look and feel of the good old times – "Retro at its best", in fact. The concept is fully developed. Our test has shown that in any case, vocals and acoustic guitar are two of the domains of this microphone – however, I am convinced that the TLM 49 would also do very well in front of a guitar amp, or with a snare, bass drum, etc. I also find it very good that with a price of 1,560 euros, those at Neumann have made this mic and hence top-quality sound available to almost everyone.