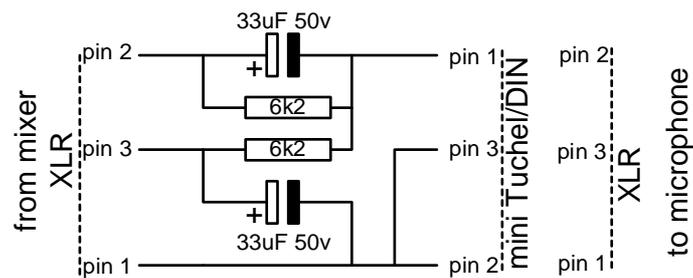


Adapting old Sennheiser condenser microphones to 48 volt phantom supply

Sennheiser MKH-type condenser microphones have a very high audio quality. However the older types were mostly made for the now defunct 12 volt T supply (T for the German "Tonader"). Such microphones can be had for very reasonable prices on the second hand market because they can not be connected directly to modern mixers. Converters are in existence, but it is quite simple to make a converter yourself:

The following circuit can be build inside the microphone, if you use miniature components:

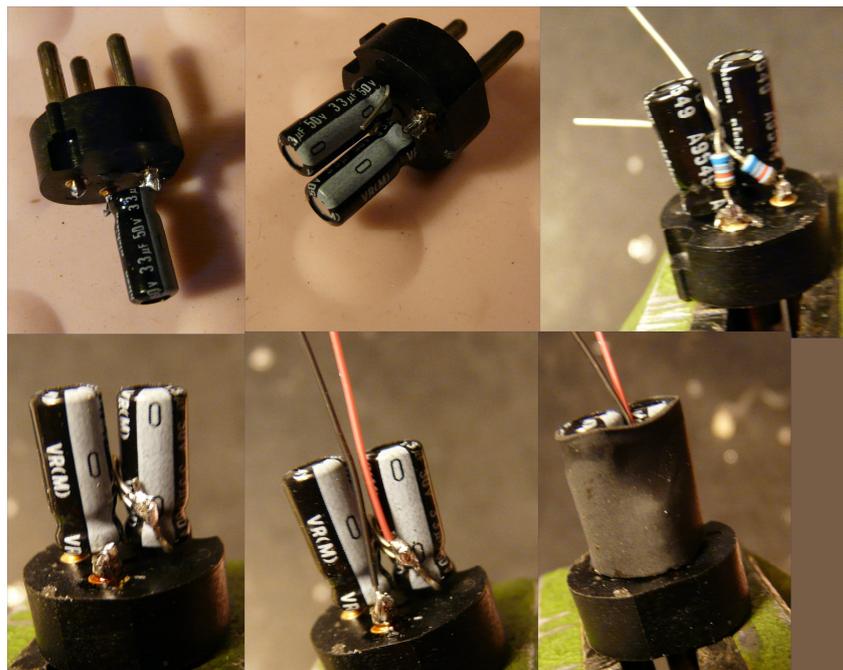


Using the correct pins on the connectors is essential!

I used this circuit on more than 10 old Sennheiser microphones and they all work flawlessly with modern mixers. I made many recordings and they sound great!

I usually build the circuit inside the microphone, which is possible when you use miniature components. In the next pictures you can see set by step how I do this.

First remove the screw that hold together the microphone. Than slide out the electronics. Now remove the core of the XLR plug (cut the wires). Now you can mount the componets on the plug:



Now you can replace the XLR plug and connect the wires. Note that there are only two wires coming from the converter. On the microphone PCB itself make the connection between the – input and ground



This method works with Sennheiser MKH microphones ONLY. Do not try this circuit with other T-type microphones. Connecting this circuit between a mixer and a dynamic microphone will almost certainly destroy that microphone!!

Disclaimer:

The info in this document is believed to be accurate, but the author does not give any guarantee whatsoever.