

AS-1

Aquarian Scientific Broadband Measurement Hydrophone

Thank you for choosing the Aquarian Scientific AS-1 hydrophone. The AS-1 is designed to provide maximum sensitivity in a small size while also providing a linear response in the bandwidth of the highest-quality commercial digital sound recording interfaces. Response is omnidirectional in the human auditory bandwidth, as well as omnidirectional on the horizontal axis at all frequencies (theoretical). Given these qualities, the AS-1 is well-suited for absolute underwater sound measurements in marine and industrial environments. It can also be used as an omnidirectional reference projector.

The standard AS-1 is a passive piezo device and thus will require an amplifier with high input impedance to achieve the best low-frequency response and noise performance. The low-frequency cutoff ($F_c\text{-HP}$) is determined by the total capacitance of the hydrophone and cable and the input impedance of your amplifier. A typical $1\text{M}\Omega$ audio interface will result in a $F_c\text{-HP}$ of approximately 30Hz. To find the input impedance (Z) required for your low-frequency bandwidth of interest, use this formula: $Z=1/(0.000000038*F_c\text{-HP})$. Note that this equation is approximate and based on the use of a 9-meter cable, but should be adequate for all typical configurations and use with common voltage-mode amplifiers. Using very high input impedance amplifiers will allow the AS-1 to monitor sounds of well under 1Hz. Keep in mind though that most audio equipment is designed to filter infrasound and you can not hear it. Using an amplifier with excessively-high input impedance may only increase susceptibility to noise.

Your amplifier may also need 60dB of gain or more for effective monitoring of bioacoustic sound sources. You can use it directly with the high-impedance input of common USB sound interfaces for monitoring loud sounds, such as pile-driving operations. Receiving sensitivity of hydrophones is not an intuitive specification to most users and the details of calculating the AS-1's output for any given source level are beyond the scope of this document. A few things to keep in mind though is that underwater sound is commonly referenced to a pressure of 1uPa, rather than the typical 20uPa for which terrestrial sound is referenced. Sound intensity is also different underwater. The result is that dB measurements in water are typically much higher than those in air. Very loud sounds in water can be 200dB or more.

A receiving sensitivity of -208 dB, ref: 1V/uPa also equals 208 dB SPL for a 1V RMS output. Or, to convert to specifications familiar to microphone users, it has a sensitivity of -88dBV or 40uV/Pa. There are convenient calculators on the Internet to help with calculating the output of the hydrophone at a given sound pressure level. Search terms such as "dB conversion". Also feel free to contact Aquarian Audio and Scientific for tech support with your specific questions.

Use and Care:

Be very careful to avoid rough service with this instrument. As compared to measurement tools of this kind, the AS-1 is a rugged device. The sensor is encased within a solid brass fixture to relieve much of the stress from impact of dropping it. But by its nature, it can not be

sensitive to minute pressure variations in the water and still be structurally resilient against crushing or cracking the sensor element if it were to be stepped on. Similarly, we use a top-quality polyurethane cable jacket material to minimize damage from cuts and abrasions to the cable. But it is also designed to be lightweight and flexible even in the coldest conditions. If deploying this hydrophone in long-term installations, take all precautions practical to protect it from storm stresses and biological damage. Route the cable through a hard conduit and put a cage around the hydrophone if possible. Also try to avoid prolonged UV exposure and try to keep the connector dry and clean to minimize corrosion.

Options:

The AS-1 can be made to order with any cable length. We recommend keeping the cable length less than 30 meters if possible for the best bandwidth and sensitivity. Adding a balanced preamp in-line will improve performance with remote installations and often save money by allowing the use of a cheaper transmission cable.

Factory quality control includes a pressure test of a minimum two hours at 30 meters equivalent water depth, a capacitance tolerance measurement, an in-air sensitivity comparison to a calibrated reference (passed if within +/- 3dB of mean; <+/-2dB typical), and a listening test. The AS-1 can also be sold with a precision calibration from the US Navy Underwater Sound Reference Division.

The AS-1 is close to neutral buoyancy. Only the modest cable weight will sink the hydrophone. This hydrophone can also be assembled with our WT150g sliding weight. Attaching the weight to the cable, rather than to the hydrophone itself has two primary benefits: It can be moved out of the way when the hydrophone needs to be installed through a small cavity or when minimizing all acoustic reflections and resonances is critical. It also protects the hydrophone by minimizing the mass attached to the sensor when dropped. This weight can be moved by loosening (CCW) the black plastic thumb screw. Tighten again to secure in your desired location.

Specifications:

Linear range: 1Hz to 100kHz ± 2 dB

Nominal Receiving Sensitivity: -208dBV re 1 μ Pa

Nominal Transmitting Sensitivity: 140dB re 1 μ Pa, 1Vrms input at 1m, 90kHz

Maximum Input Voltage: 30V p-p (continuous); 150V p-p (<10% duty cycle, <100kHz)

Horizontal Directivity(20kHz): ± 0.2 dB

Horizontal Directivity (100kHz): ± 1 dB

Vertical Directivity (20kHz): ± 1 dB

Vertical Directivity (100kHz): +6dB -11dB

Operating depth: 200m

Survival depth: 350m

Operating temperature range: -10°C to +80°C

Nominal capacitance: 5.4nF $\pm 20\%$ (plus cable @ 118pF/m)

Output connection: BNC (standard)

Size: 12mm D x 40mm L

Weight (in air): 8g (plus cable @ 28g/m)

Cable length: 9 meters standard. Any length on request.

Cable Jacket: Polyurethane, OD: 4.5mm

Encapsulant: Polyurethane