Podcasters made this combo XLR / USB-C jack exist



Rode has released an updated version of its NT1 large diaphragm condenser microphone, a standard in the company's lineup and one of its first products debuting back in 1991. The microphone has mostly the same design that makes it a good choice for small budget vocal recordings, but this year's model comes with a fun twist: the microphone now supports both XLR and USB-C outputs, all within the same slot.

This dual-connect upgrade has been a common addition to podcasting and home recording microphones for the past few years, allowing the microphone to be used for multiple recording gear setups. But Rode has designed the NT1's multiple output jacks in a clever way by fitting them snug right on top of each other inside the circular XLR connector. You can thank the age of the podcaster for this innovation.

Changes like this don't happen without reason. Most dynamic condenser microphones were designed way before podcasting and USB ports existed, and many companies have integrated USB into a traditional microphone body in sloppy ways. The Blue Yeti

has been infamous for USB cables breaking frequently from the stress of the cable sticking out underneath the microphone with no support – an accidental tug on a cable can potentially snap the connector right off.