



About Microphones and Mic Etiquette



Microphones - invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell as a telephone transmitter.



Types of Microphones

There are three main types of microphones:

- CONDENSER
- DYNAMIC
- RIBBON



Condenser microphones

Very sensitive to very faint sound waves.

- Excellent for voice and music recordings - used in recording studios
- Require power, either electric, battery, or phantom power (a mixer board)



Dynamic microphones

Not as sensitive as condensers, so capture less detail, but also record less background noise

Ideal for live performances and recording loud instruments.

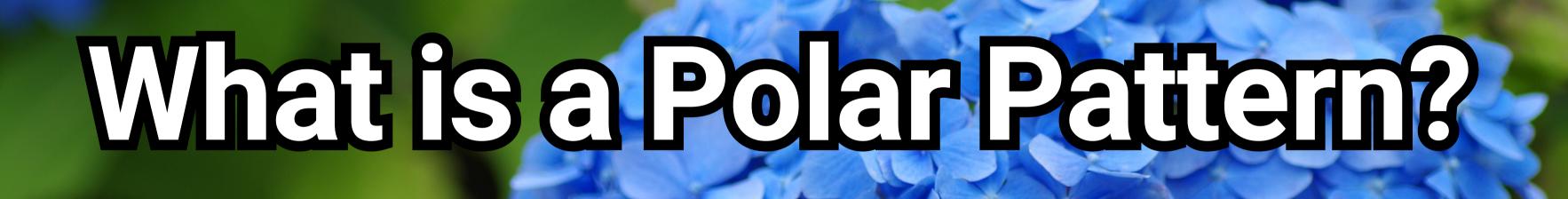
Typically are used at large events



Ribbon microphones

- Known for their warm and natural sound, ideal for recording voices and string/brass
- Used in Podcasts and Interviews
- Almost always have a figure-8 polar pattern and are bi-directional

Figure 8? Bi-Directional?



Omnidirectional

- All directions equally

Filming/Big Scenes

Uni-directional

- Cardiod (heart pattern)

Voice Actors/Singers

Bi-directional

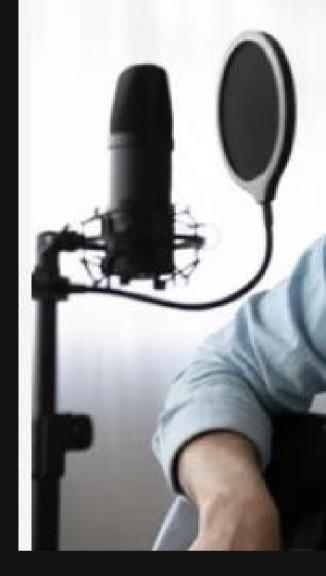
- Figure 8 pattern

Podcasts/Interviews



Condenser Microphones

- Vibrations exist everywhere
- Often a condenser mic is supported by a vibration net called a "Shock Mount" to stop interference
- Pop Filters are also used to eliminate extra mouth sounds such as the "popping of 'P's"





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