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About Microphones and Mic Etiquette




Introduction

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



How do Microphones Work?

Microphones transfer soundwaves into electric current to amplify them.

Two black microphones are positioned on a wooden podium. The background is a blurred, light-colored setting. The title 'Types of Microphones' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, white font with a black outline.

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?

What is a Polar Pattern?

Omnidirectional	- All directions equally	Filming/Big Scenes
Uni-directional	- Cardioid (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”



A group of four people (two men and two women) are smiling and looking at each other. One man in the center is holding a microphone. The background is a plain white wall. The text is overlaid on the image.

How to Hold a Mic?

Hold Your Microphone Like an Ice Cream Cone in Front of Your Mouth.

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about YOU!**