
MICROPHONE PATTERNS AND TYPES

- Mic is like an electronic ear but not as selective.
- When we're recording we want to remove distractions of unwanted sound so need to know type of mic to use for what we want to achieve.

MIC TYPES

Two main types that we come across:

1) Condensor/Capacitor

- needs a power source - usually supplied by the mixer. Many mixers have 'Phantom Power' which is special 45 volts power used to power condensor mics. Although power can sometimes come from a battery.
- Usually only used in a studio.

2) Dynamic

- doesn't need a power supply so is more flexible in it's usage.

MIC PATTERNS

- Three main pick up patterns - although there are a few more specialised ones.

Omni-directional

Omni means "all" as we know from our theology!

- So omni-directional picks up from all directions equally.
- Usually used for interviewing and may be used in discussion type programme.
- Working distance - 7"-10"

Uni-directional or Cardioid

- pick up pattern is heart shaped hence 'cardioid'
- Only picks up in one direction - 'dead' on the other side - although may pick up reflected sound.
- Can choose sound source and eliminate to large extent unwanted sounds.
- Useful for outside interviews i.e.: eliminate traffic noise etc.
- Useful in room with bad acoustics - can cut a lot of reverberation and other unwanted noises.
- Used in many situations - studio, interviews, music etc.
- Working distance - 7"-10"

Bi-directional or figure of 8

- Pick up pattern is figure of 8 shaped. Picks up behind and in front but not at sides.
- Most commonly used in drama and interviews.
- Working distance approx 12"-18" - depends on model of microphone