



Microphone

(from RAWIK Radio Aus- und Weiterbildung im Interkulturellen Kontext)

For a good recording, it is essential to have a good microphone. There are two types of microphones:

Dynamic microphones

In noisy situations (schoolyard, gymnasium, sports field, street noise, machinery noise), dynamic microphones are used, as they can cope well with high levels.

Condenser microphones

Condenser microphones need an energy source. This is provided by a battery inside the microphone (do not forget spare batteries). Condenser microphones are a popular choice for recording indoors. Studio microphones are also condenser microphones. For recording voices, both dynamic and condenser microphones are suitable.

Microphones also have different **polar patterns**:

A microphone's polar pattern refers to the shape of the space around the microphone, from which sounds are best recorded. For radio, we primarily need omnidirectional and cardioid microphones. With an omnidirectional polar pattern, the microphone records sound from all directions. It is thus not particularly suitable for interviews etc.

Microphones with a so-called cardioid polar pattern record sound from the front and sides. Microphones with cardioid or shotgun polar patterns are classed as directional microphones.

Finally, we should also pay attention to whether it is a **mono or stereo microphone**.

Mono microphones are good for recording voices. For recording radio plays, music, noises and ambient sound, stereo microphones should be used.

Usually, the radio station provides microphones. To acquire external microphones or digital recorders with built-in microphones, we turn to the technicians who work at our station.

Many of the mobile digital recorders used today have built-in stereo microphones, some of which offer good recording quality for voices and noises. These devices usually also have inputs for external microphones. Some devices can be switched to mono recording mode. Dictation devices with small, barely visible microphones should not be used at all, unless these devices provide usable results with external microphones.

Recordings made with mobile telephones, or with MP3 players which have a recording

function, are not suitable for radio either. It is essential to test every device before buying it! Criteria: recording formats, sound, user-friendliness and replaceable batteries.