

Microphone Types

Music

The three kinds, what each is good at, and where to point it.

Every studio microphone falls into one of three families.

Type	Good at	Watch for
Dynamic	Loud sources, drums, guitar amps	Less detail up top
Condenser	Detail, vocals, acoustic guitar	Needs 48V phantom power
Ribbon	Warm, smooth, brass and rooms	Fragile; never send phantom power

Cardioid rejects the rear; omni takes everything; figure-8 takes front and back. The pattern is as important as the type.