

AT4081

Bidirectional Ribbon Microphone

40 series microphones



Features

- **Smooth, warm and natural sound with precise, articulate detail to meet the critical requirements of today's recording, broadcast and sound reinforcement professionals**
- **Groundbreaking Audio-Technica ribbon design with 18 patents pending**
- **Proprietary MicroLinear™ ribbon imprint for superior durability and freedom from lateral flexing and distortion**
- **Innovative dual ribbon construction for increased sensitivity**
- **Extremely powerful N50 rare-earth neodymium magnets for high output level**
- **Ultra-fine mesh helps protect against ribbon damage from wind and plosives**
- **Classic bidirectional (figure-of-eight) polar pattern picks up sounds equally from the front and back of the element**
- **High-SPL capability for exceptionally versatile performance**
- **Extended frequency response for natural audio reproduction**
- **Handmade production – including ribbon corrugation, imprint and assembly**
- **Low-profile stick design maximizes placement options**
- **Phantom-powered active electronics provide stable impedance and higher output for maximum compatibility with microphone preamplifiers**

Description

The AT4081 is a side-address ribbon microphone with a bidirectional polar pattern. Delivering the warmth and natural sound of a classic ribbon microphone, the AT4081 offers a robust build for long-lasting performance and high gain for easy use with microphone preamplifiers.

With 18 patents pending, Audio-Technica's innovative ribbon transducer advances the evolution of ribbon microphone technology, combining remarkable durability and high-SPL capability with smooth, rich audio quality. The microphone is recommended for horns, strings, acoustic instruments, drum overheads, orchestras, ensembles and guitar cabinets. It excels in recording studios as well as in live-sound settings.

A significant breakthrough in ribbon cartridge design, Audio-Technica's patent-pending MicroLinear™ ribbon imprint minimizes ribbon distortion for durable performance and accurate reproduction of the sound source.

While the application of phantom power was prohibited for old-school ribbon microphones, Audio-Technica's AT4081 requires 48V phantom power for operation. The phantom power is used—not for the microphone's dynamic ribbon transducer—but for its active electronics, which bring its output to near condenser microphone level. This high-output and stable impedance make the microphone easy to integrate

with microphone preamplifiers.

The bidirectional polar pattern of the microphone makes it equally sensitive to sounds originating in front and back of the element.

The output of the microphone is a 3-pin XLRM-type connector.

The microphone is enclosed in a rugged housing. The included AT8471 isolation clamp provides superior isolation and permits mounting on any microphone stand with $\frac{5}{8}$ "-27 threads. A windscreen, a storage sleeve and a protective carrying case are also included.

Operation & Maintenance

The AT4081 requires 48V phantom power for operation.

Output is low impedance (Lo-Z) balanced. The signal appears across Pins 2 and 3; Pin 1 is ground (shield). Output phase is "Pin 2 hot" – positive acoustic pressure produces positive voltage at Pin 2.

To avoid phase cancellation and poor sound, all mic cables must be wired consistently: Pin 1-to-Pin 1, etc.

An Audio-Technica emblem is on the front of the microphone. Position this side of the microphone toward the sound source.

While Audio-Technica ribbon microphones are designed for superior durability, we recommend the following precautions when dealing with ribbon microphones: do not blow directly into the ribbon assembly; use the supplied windscreen for up-close vocal use.

Note: Do not discard the translucent plastic storage sleeve. The sleeve is provided to protect the microphone during transportation and storage. When the microphone is not in use, replace the sleeve by sliding it down over the top of the microphone to cover the ribbon element assembly.

Take care to keep foreign particles from entering the windscreen. An accumulation of foreign material in the ribbon structure and/or the windscreen's mesh surface, can degrade performance. Avoid leaving the microphone in the open sun or in areas where temperatures exceed 110° F (43° C) for extended periods. Extremely high humidity should also be avoided.

Specifications

Element	Ribbon
Polar pattern	Figure-of-eight
Frequency response	30-18,000 Hz
Open circuit sensitivity	-42 dB (7.9 mV) re 1V at 1 Pa
Impedance	100 ohms
Maximum input sound level	150 dB SPL, 1 kHz at 1% T.H.D.
Noise ¹	25 dB SPL
Dynamic range (typical)	125 dB, 1 kHz at Max SPL
Signal-to-noise ratio ¹	69 dB, 1 kHz at 1 Pa
Phantom power requirements	48 V DC, 3.0 mA typical
Weight	152 g (5.4 oz)
Dimensions	155.0 mm (6.10") long, 21.0 mm (0.83") maximum body diameter
Output connector	Integral 3-pin XLRM-type
Audio-Technica case style	S13
Accessories furnished	AT8471 isolation clamp for 5/8"-27 threaded stands; 5/8"-27 to 3/8"-16 threaded adapter; windscreen; storage sleeve; protective carrying case

In the interest of standards development, A.T.U.S. offers full details on its test methods to other industry professionals on request.

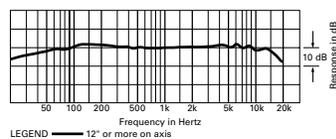
1 Pascal = 10 dynes/cm² = 10 microbars = 94 dB SPL

¹ Typical, A-weighted, using Audio Precision System One.

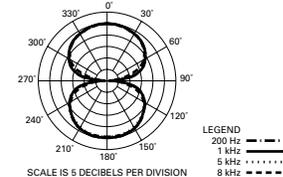
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frequency response: 30–18,000 Hz



polar pattern



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