OC 818
Frequency Charts & Polar Patterns

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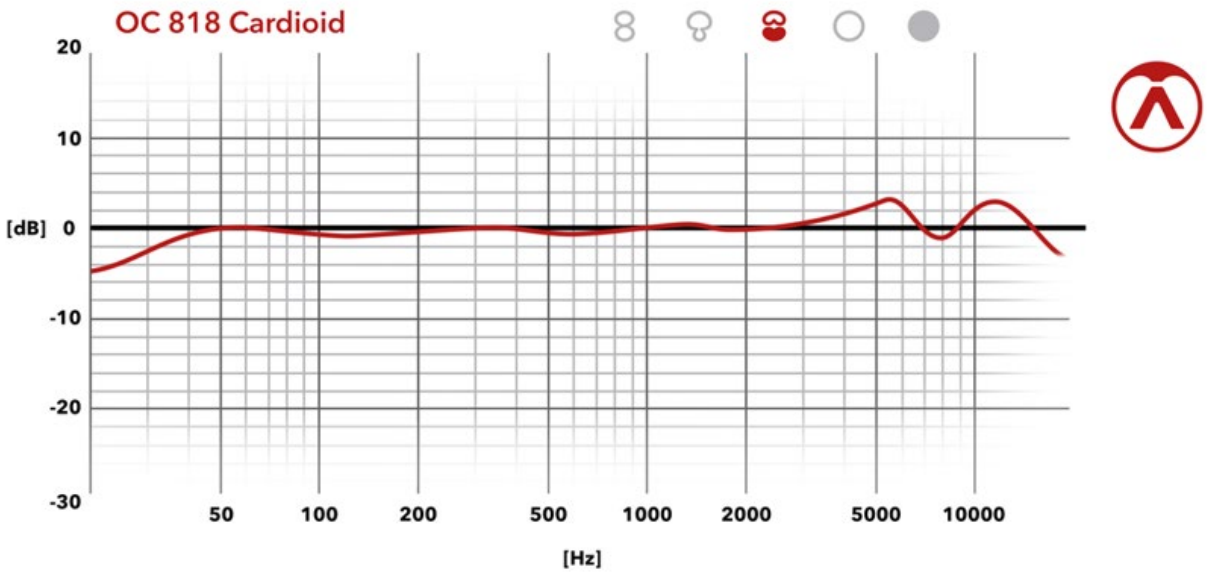
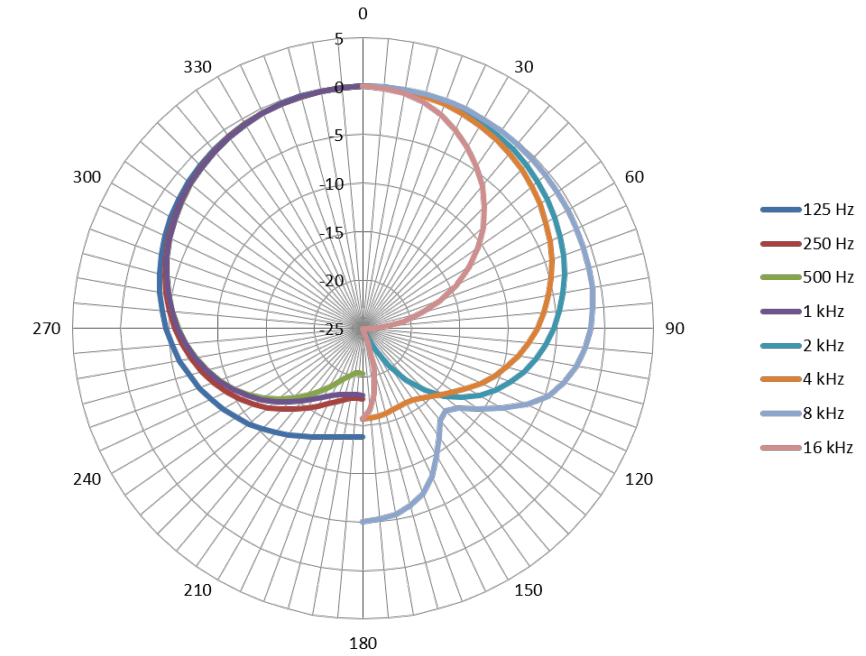
OC 818 Cardioid





The OC818 has a frequency response similar to the famous brass CK12 capsules which is fully preserved by the open acoustic design of the microphone grill. In cardioid mode, this results in a slight boost in the upper mids starting at 3kHz to make the signal cut through even in crowded mixes.

However, the dip in the 7k-8kHz area dip yields in smooth sibilance whereas vintage microphones with CK12 capsules can sound a little bit harsh in that area due to reflections caused by their microphone grill design. The 10kHz lift of the OC818 still gives you that sought after “air“ which made these vintage mics famous. Further, the very tight cardioid pattern will result in a very well controllable proximity effect, especially for singers.

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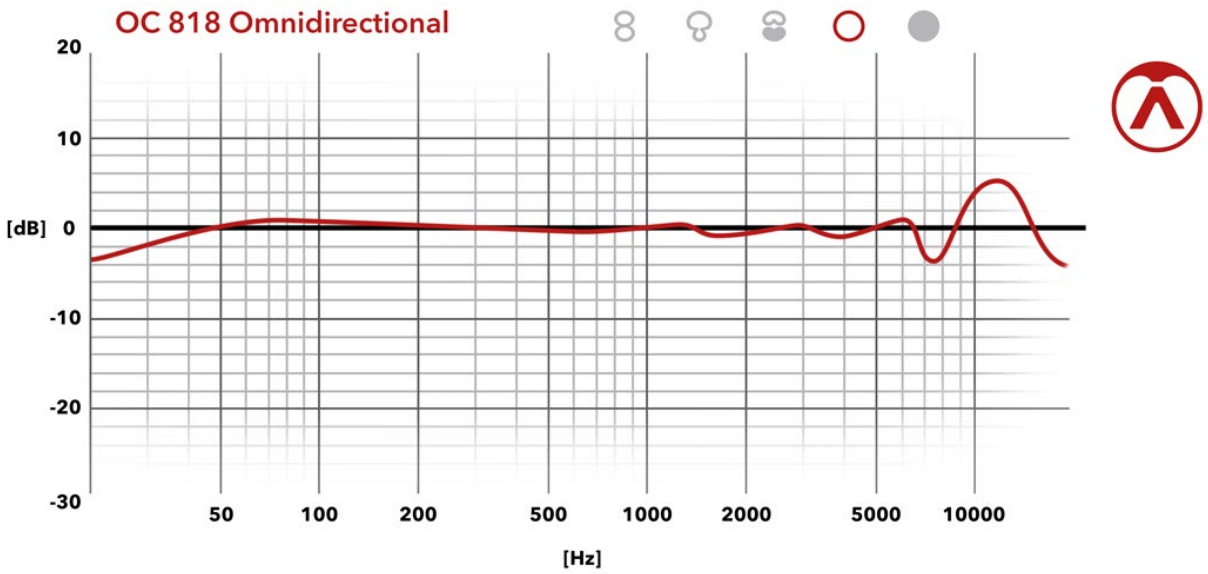
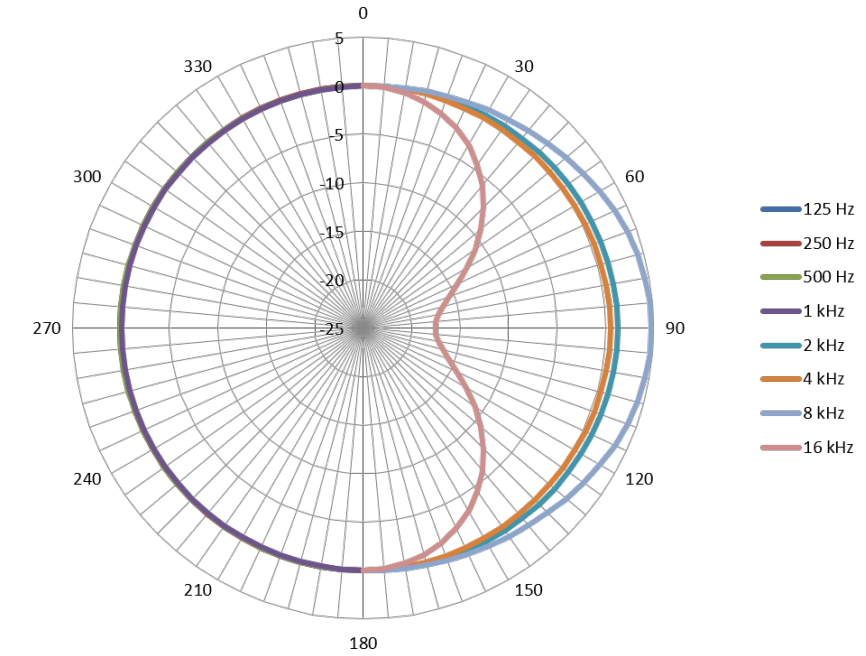
OC 818 Omnidirectional





In Omni mode, the upper mid boost vanished in exchange for even more air which makes this configuration perfect for orchestral work and any recordings in good sounding rooms. The Omni characteristic will also hardly have any proximity effect.

Pro-Tip: You can still have this additional high end and no proximity effect with a tight polar pattern by using the PolarDesigner plugin with three bands: select omnidirectional characteristic for up to 300Hz in Omni, cardioid for 300Hz-8kHz and again Omni for everything above 8kHz. This will result in a very focused mid-band with the advantages of an even enhanced high end and no proximity effect of the omnidirectional characteristic.

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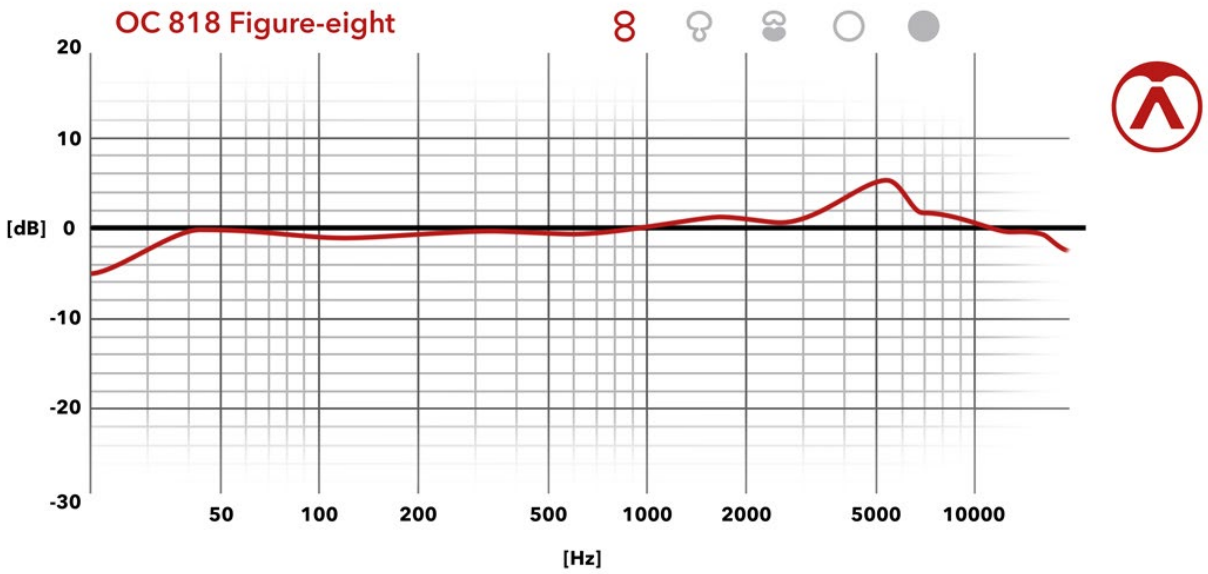
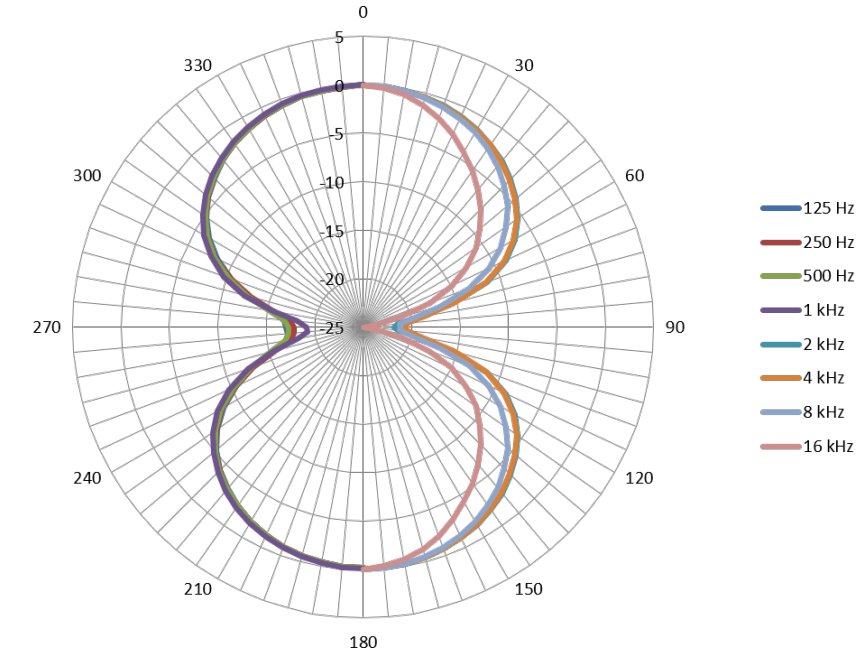
OC 818 Figure-eight





The figure-of-eight will have the most “aggressive” sound with a presence boost around 5kHz. This makes this characteristic very interesting for guitar and drum sounds. Again, Polar Designer can be used to get the advances of the presence boost without e.g. picking up sound from the rear for low frequencies – just dial in a cardioid characteristic for everything below 1kHz and use figure-of-eight above!

Or, if you need perfect rejection for sounds coming from the sides but you like the sound of the cardioid pattern more than figure-of-eight, just play around with the free field and diffuse field equalization control which will make any characteristic sound like the cardioid pattern in very dampened (free field) or undampened rooms (diffuse field).

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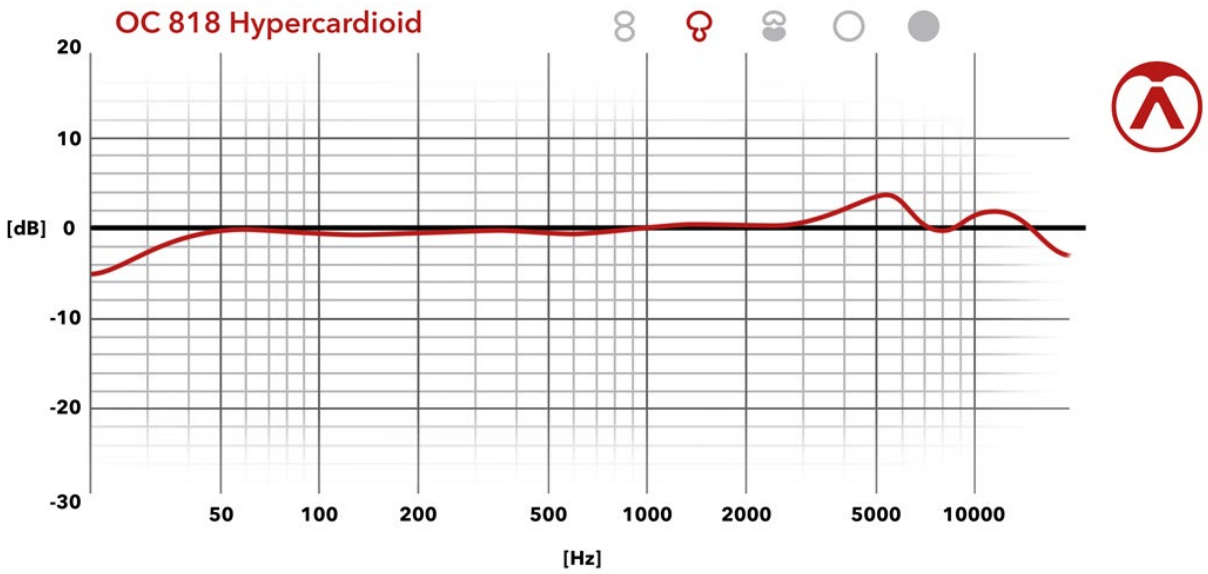
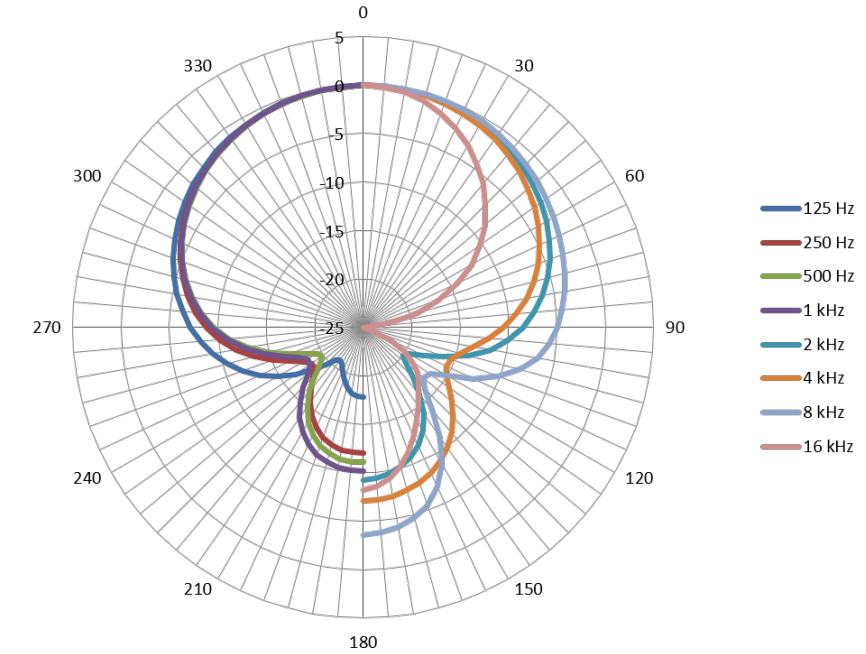
OC 818 Hypercardioid





The Hyper Cardioid pattern of the OC818 is sound wise a combination of cardioid and figure-of-eight patterns.

It can be used for tight drum sounds or also voice overs due to the enhanced boost at 5kHz and increased proximity effect. In the tradition of brass CK12 capsule microphones, the maximum rejection can be found at 120-degrees.

If you need your maximum rejection at a slightly different angle, you can adjust it in less then 1 degree steps with the Polar Pilot App (additional OCR8 Dongle required) by sliding between center position (cardioid) and far left (figure-of-eight).

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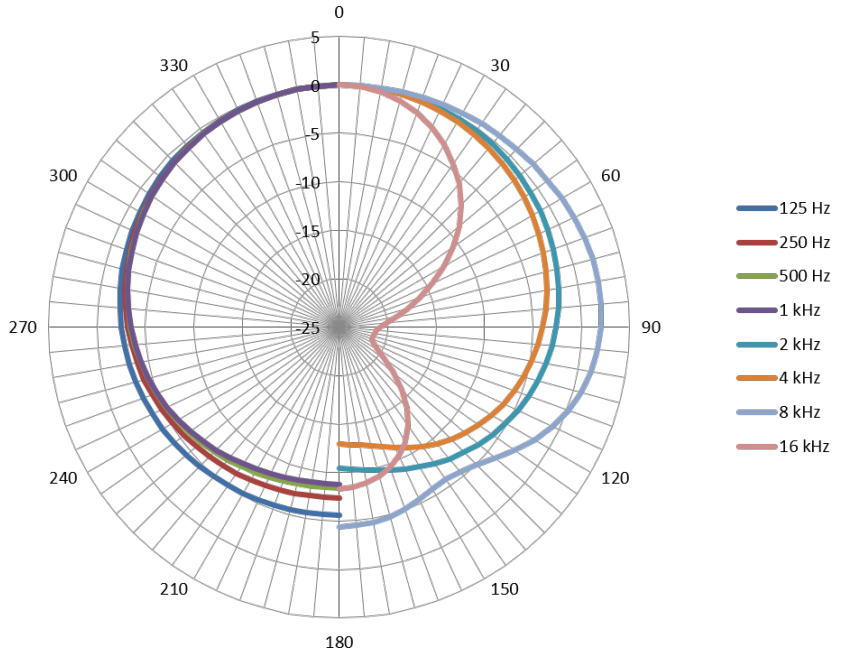
OC 818 Preset Mode Default (Wide Cardioid)



Talking about the Polar Pilot App, we did pre-set a wide cardioid polar pattern to the "●" position (= Preset Mode - all the way to the right on the pattern selector) which can be very useful for classical singers. It still reproduces the nice airy sound of the recording location and the polar pattern is not as tight as in cardioid mode to allow the singer moving in front of the microphone without to much level loss as the wide cardioid only suppresses sound coming from the side by 3dB as opposed to the 6dB of a perfect cardioid.

Sound coloration will hardly be a problem with any of those two as the CKR12 capsule simply looses level off axis but keeping the frequency response almost the same as it was with the brass CK12 capsule. Again, you can freely set any position in between to adjust the off axis level loss with the OCR8 Dongle and the Polar Pilot App

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