



## Handheld microphone guide

There are two basic types of hand held mic:

### **Omnidirectional**

An omnidirectional mic picks up sounds from all directions.

It's a good general purpose mic, particularly useful for interviews and ambient sounds.

### **Cardioid mics**

These mics are directional, and they're more sensitive to sounds coming from one particular direction, often the front of the mic. Cardioid mics are good for favouring one sound while rejecting another from a different direction, but you need to know what you're doing.

Find out what kind of mic you will be using, so that you know how they will function during the recording.

### **Using Handheld Mics:**

- Hold the mic firmly but comfortably, and well away from the connection at the bottom;
- Support the lead so that it doesn't sway or knock against chairs, tables, yourself etc.;
- Don't let rings or bracelets knock against the mic or the lead;
- Don't grip the mic too hard - your hand will go numb and may start shaking. If your arm does start to feel tired (and it will), simply ask the interviewee to pause for a moment, and swap to the other arm/hand;
- Don't move the mic around in your hand as you use it - this will cause mic bumps on the recording.