

# P420

## **BEDIENUNGSANLEITUNG ..... 2**

Bitte vor Inbetriebnahme des Gerätes lesen!

## **USER INSTRUCTIONS..... 14**

Please read the manual before using the equipment!

## **MODE D'EMPLOI..... 26**

Veuillez lire cette notice avant d'utiliser le système!

## **MODO DE EMPLEO..... 38**

¡Sirvase leer el manual antes de utilizar el equipo!



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# 1 Safety and the environment



ATTENTION

### Risk of damage

Please make sure that the piece of equipment your microphone will be connected to fulfills the safety regulations in force in your country and is fitted with a ground lead.

## Environment



- At the end of the lifetime of the product, disconnect the housing, electronics and cable from each other and discard all components according to applicable disposal regulations.
- The packaging is recyclable. Dispose of the packaging via an appropriate collection system provided for this purpose.

## 2 Description

### Introduction

Thank you for your decision to buy an AKG product. **Please read the user instructions carefully** before using the unit and keep them in a safe place so that you can refer to them in the future at any time. We wish you a lot of fun and success!

### Contents

- Microphone
- Spider shock mount
- Carrying case

Check that the packaging contains all of the items listed for your system. If anything is missing, please contact your AKG dealer.

### Optional Accessories

- **PF80** pop filter
- **ST305** table stand
- **W4000** external windscreen

### Short description

The P420 is a heavy-duty, rugged true condenser microphone built to the same strict quality standards as all other AKG products.

Designed on the basis of AKG's decades of knowhow and feedback from sound engineers around the world using AKG studio microphones every day, this general-purpose 1" dual large-diaphragm microphone brings AKG studio quality to the worlds of recording, live sound, and broadcasting.

## Features

- **Selectable polar patterns:** The microphone's transducer uses a dual diaphragm. This sophisticated technology allows you to select the optimum polar pattern (cardioid, omnidirectional, or figure eight) for every application.
- **Gold-sputtered diaphragm:** The diaphragm is made of a plastic foil that is gold-sputtered on one side only to prevent shorting to the back electrode even at extremely high sound pressure levels.
- **All-metal body:** The all-metal body adds to the rejection of RF interference so you can use the microphone near transmitter stations and along with wireless microphones or other communications equipment. The extremely rugged, heavy body and sturdy front grill protect the microphone from damage from tough handling on stage.
- **High headroom, minimum distortion:** Capable of handling sound pressure levels up to 155 dB without introducing perceptible distortion and built to resist high temperatures and humidity, the microphone will give excellent results in a wide range of applications.



Figure 1: Polar pattern selector on P420 front, preattenuation and bass cut switches on rear

- **Polar pattern selector:** Selector 1 on the microphone front sets the microphone polar pattern to cardioid, omnidirectional, or figure eight.
- **Switchable preattenuation pad:** Selector 2 on the microphone rear lets you increase the headroom by 20 dB for distortionfree close-in recording. The preattenuation pad prevents the microphone's output level, particularly at low frequencies, from overloading the miniature transformers used in many mixer input stages, etc.
- **Bass cut filter:** Selector 3 on the microphone rear further reduces low-end distortion caused by footfall or wind noise, etc. The filter also minimizes the proximity effect that close-in miking from less than 4 inches causes in any unidirectional microphone. The filter rolls off at 12 dB/octave from 300 Hz downward.

### 3 Connecting to Audio Equipment

#### General

The microphone uses a condenser transducer designed for 48-volt phantom powering to IEC 61938 and needs an external power supply.

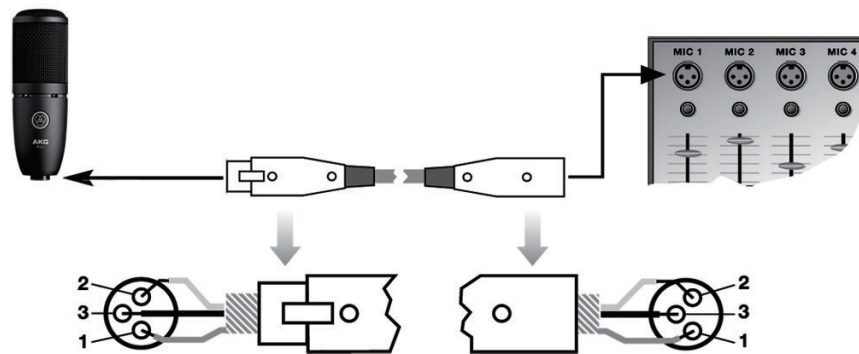
#### Pinout

The microphone provides a balanced output on a 3-pin male XLR connector:

Pin 1: ground

Pin 2: hot

Pin 3: cold



*Figure 2: Connecting to a balanced input with phantom power*

#### Connecting the Microphone

- 1) Use an XLR cable to connect the microphone to a balanced XLR input with phantom power.
- 2) Switch the phantom power on. (Refer to the user manual of the unit to which you connected your microphone.)

## 4 Operation

### Operating instructions

The P420 is a general-purpose multi-pattern microphone for recording, broadcast, and onstage use.

Every instrument radiates its sound in a specific way. Therefore, to get the best sound it is crucial to experiment with microphone placement.

- Whichever polar pattern you selected, it may be good to know which way the transducer axis is facing: the **front** of the microphone is the side of the body with the **AKG logo** and polar pattern selector (1) on it.
- When recording wind instruments or vocals, make sure **not to blow or sing directly into the microphone**.

To avoid unwanted wind and pop noise or moisture problems, place an optional **PF80 pop screen** from AKG between the microphone and vocalist/instrument.

- **Keep the microphone dry.** Moisture from blowing or singing directly at the capsule from a short distance, or extremely high humidity may cause the microphone to start crackling or go very quiet due to partial short circuits in the polarization voltage.
- If you use the microphone **in the open air**, use an optional **AKG W4000** windscreens to protect the microphone from moisture and reduce wind noise.
- **High volume instruments:** You can use this microphone for close-in recording of very loud instruments (brass instruments, kick drum, etc.). Just switch the preattenuation pad in to increase the microphone's capability of handling sound pressure levels to 155 dB.
- **Low-frequency noise:** To suppress low-frequency noise such as air conditioning rumble, footfall noise, or traffic sounds, switch the bass cut filter in.



Figure 3: Microphone front

### Selecting Polar Patterns

Each of the P420's selectable polar patterns is virtually frequency independent so that reflected sound, too will be reproduced accurately and uncolored.

- **Cardioid** (center setting): This is a standard setting for recording and gives excellent results on all kinds of voices and a wide range of instruments. Remember to aim the microphone front at the sound source.
- **Figure eight** (left-hand setting): The microphone will pick up sounds arriving from the front and rear with equal sensitivity. Use this mode to mic up the side signal in M/S stereo recording or to record two sound sources (talkers, instruments) facing each other. It is also a good choice for cymbal overhead miking.
- **Omnidirectional** (right-hand setting): This is the preferred setting for "all around the mic" recording, high quality ambience (audience sound) miking, or far-field recording in exceptionally good-sounding large or small recording rooms, etc.



## 5 Cleaning

### Microphone

- Use a soft cloth moistened with water to clean the surface of the microphone body.

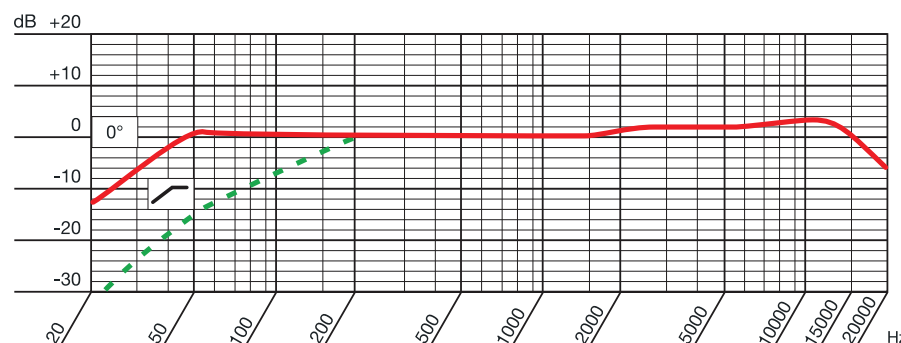
### 6 Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Remedy
No sound	Power to mixer and/or amplifier is off.	Switch power to mixer or amplifier on.
	Channel or master fader on mixer, or volume control on amplifier is at zero.	Set channel or master fader on mixer or volume control on amplifier to desired level.
	Microphone is not connected to mixer or amplifier.	Connect microphone to mixer or amplifier.
	Cable connectors are seated loosely.	Check cable connectors for secure seat.
	Cable is defective.	Check cable and replace if damaged.
	No supply voltage	Switch phantom power on. Phantom power supply: connect to power outlet or insert battery (batteries). Check cable and replace if necessary.
Distortion	Channel gain control on mixer set too high.	Turn gain control down CCW.
	Microphone too close to sound source.	Move microphone further away from sound source.
	Microphone sensitivity set too high.	Switch preattenuation pad in.
Crackling noises or low output	Partial short circuits due to excessive humidity.	Place microphone in warm, dry room and allow to dry.

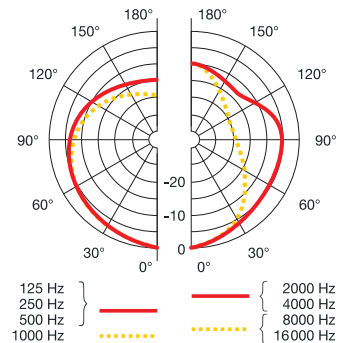
## 7 Technical data

Type:	1" dual-diaphragm, true condenser pressure-gradient microphone
Polar pattern:	cardioid, omnidirectional, figure eight
Sensitivity:	(cardioid) 28 mV/Pa (-31 dBV)
Frequency response:	20 Hz to 20 kHz (see frequency response trace)
Electrical impedance:	$\leq 200$ ohms
Recommended load impedance:	$\geq 1000$ ohms
Equivalent noise level to IEC 60268-4:	15 dB(A)
Signal to noise:	79 dB(A) re 1 Pa
Max. SPL for 0.5% THD:	135 / 155 dB SPL (0 / -20 dB)
Temperature range:	-10 °C to +60 °C (14 °F - 140 °F)
Phantom powering:	48 V $\pm$ 4 V to IEC 61938
Current consumption:	$\leq 3$ mA
Connector:	3-pin XLR (pin 2 hot)
Diameter:	54 mm (2.13 in.)
Length:	165 mm (6.5 in.)
Net weight:	530 g (18.7 oz)
Bass cut pad:	300 Hz, 12 dB/octave
Preattenuation pad:	-20 dB

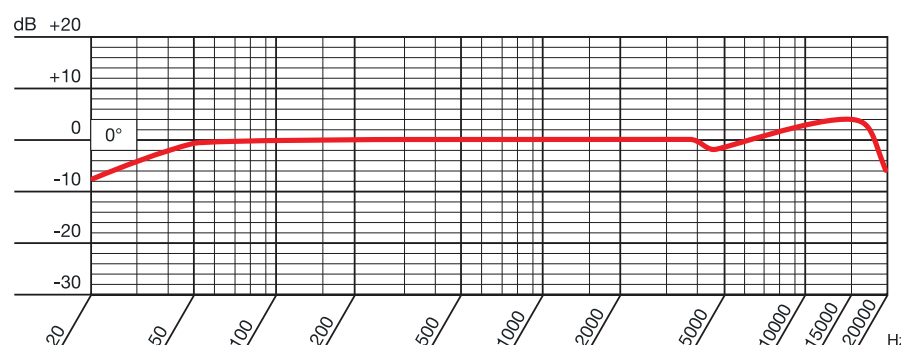
## Frequency Response (cardioid)



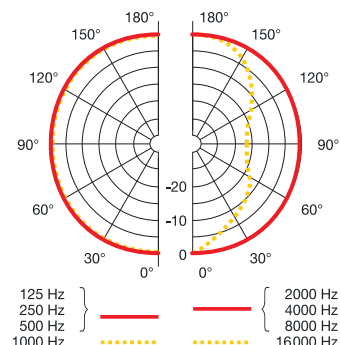
## Polar Diagram



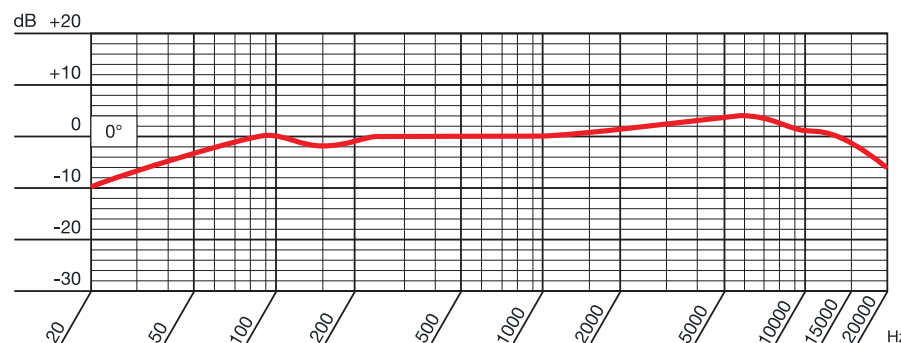
## Frequency Response (omnidirectional)



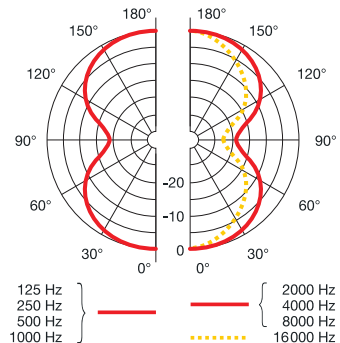
## Polar Diagram



## Frequency Response (figure eight)



## Polar Diagram



This product corresponds to the standards stated in the Declaration of Conformity. You can request the Declaration of Conformity by e-mail from [sales@akg.com](mailto:sales@akg.com).

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# WARRANTY CARD

GARANTIEKARTE · CARTE DE GARANTIE  
CARTA DI GARANZIA · TARJETA DE GARANTIA

KÄUFER/PURCHASED BY/  
ACHETEUR/COMPRADOR/  
CLIENTE:

DATUM/DATE/DATA/FECHA:

VERKÄUFER/SOLD BY/  
VENDEUR/RIVENDITORE/  
VENDEDOR:

SERIAL NUMBER/SERIEN-  
NUMMER/NUMERO DE  
SERIE/NUMERO DI SERIE:

## WIR GRATULIEREN ...

... und bedanken uns dafür, dass Sie sich für den Kauf eines AKG Produktes entschieden haben. Seit mehr als sechzig Jahren zählt AKG zu den führenden Herstellern von Mikrofonen, Kopfhörern und Sound Reinforcement Produkten. Unzählige AKG Entwicklungen wurden bereits als Patent registriert. Die sprichwörtliche AKG Qualität erfreut sich weltweit wachsender Beliebtheit, und wir sind überzeugt, dass auch dieses AKG Produkt Ihren Wünschen und Vorstellungen entsprechen wird. Für den Fall, dass sich dennoch einmal ein Problem einstellt, dürfen wir auf die folgenden Garantiebedingungen verweisen. Wenden Sie sich im Fall von Produktproblemen an erster Stelle an den Fachhändler, bei dem Sie das Produkt gekauft haben. Sollte dies nicht möglich sein, setzen Sie sich bitte mit der für Ihr Land zuständigen AKG Vertretung in Verbindung. Die jeweilige Adresse entnehmen Sie bitte unserer Website [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com). Sie wird Ihnen bei den unten angeführten Adressen auf Anfrage auch gerne mitgeteilt.

Weiterführende Informationen finden Sie auf unserer Homepage [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS ...

... and thank you for buying an AKG brand product. AKG has been a leading manufacturer of microphones, headphones, and sound system products for more than sixty years. Numerous inventions by AKG have been patented. Users all over the world appreciate the proverbial quality of AKG equipment and we trust this product will fulfill all your needs and expectations. Should there be a problem, please read the following Warranty Conditions. If you have a problem with an AKG product, see the dealer from whom you purchased the product first. If this is not possible, please get in touch with the AKG Distributor for your region or country. To find the appropriate address, please visit the AKG website at [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com) or contact one of the addresses listed below.

For more information visit [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)

## NOUS VOUS FÉLICITONS ...

... et vous remercions d'avoir choisi un produit de la marque AKG. Depuis plus de 60 ans AKG, qui a fait breveter un nombre considérable d'inventions, est l'un des grands fabricants de microphones, casques et autres produits destinés à l'amplification du son. La légendaire qualité AKG est de plus en plus demandée dans le monde entier et nous sommes persuadés que le produit AKG que vous venez d'acquérir répondra lui aussi en tous points à votre attente. Au cas où malgré tout un problème se poserait, nous attirons votre attention sur les conditions de garantie suivantes. Veuillez vous adresser alors en premier lieu au magasin où vous avez acheté produit. Si ce n'est pas possible, contactez la société distribuant les produits AKG dans votre pays. Vous trouverez l'adresse sur notre site [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com). Vous pouvez également la demander à l'une des adresses ci-dessous.

Vous trouverez de plus amples informations sur notre site [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)

## CONGRATULAZIONI ...

... e grazie di aver acquistato un prodotto di marca AKG. Da oltre sessant'anni l'AKG è tra i produttori leader di microfoni, cuffie e prodotti per il sound reinforcement. Numerosissime sue innovazioni sono state brevettate. La proverbiale qualità AKG gode di crescente popolarità su scala mondiale. Siamo convinti che anche questo prodotto AKG corrisponderà ai vostri desideri e alle vostre aspettative. Nel caso si dovesse verificare un problema, vi ricordiamo le seguenti condizioni di garanzia e vi preghiamo di rivolgervi in primo luogo al rivenditore specializzato dal quale avete acquistato il prodotto. Se ciò non fosse possibile, contattate il distributore AKG del vostro Paese. L'indirizzo si trova al sito internet [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com) oppure viene comunicato su richiesta.

Per ulteriori informazioni visitate il nostro sito [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)

## FELICITACIONES ...

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Encontrará más información en nuestra página web [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)

**[www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)**

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• La garanzia è valida solo nel paese in cui è stato acquistato il prodotto.

• Presupposto per la prestazione della garanzia è la presentazione della scheda di garanzia debitamente compilata dal rivenditore specializzato o della fattura. Se la merce dovesse venir spedita per far effettuare la riparazione in garanzia, la spedizione è a rischio e pericolo del cliente. La garanzia verrà prestata esclusivamente per l'acquirente originale che è consumatore finale. Spetta all'AKG la decisione se riparare la merce consegnata per la riparazione in garanzia o se sostituirla.

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*\* Per prodotti di marca Crown® e determinati microfoni a condensatore: 3 anni di garanzia limitata (per ulteriori informazioni consultate il sito [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)).*

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• AKG warrants new, unused AKG products against evident defects in material and workmanship for a period of two years\* from the date of original purchase. This warranty does not cover any electrical or mechanical damage resulting from misuse or abuse, lack of reasonable care, damage due to force majeure or natural forces, or inadequate repairs performed by unauthorized service centers.

• Warranty service is only available in the region where you purchased the product.

• Batteries and wear of parts due to normal use are not covered by this warranty.

• Performance of repairs or product replacement under this warranty is subject to presentation of this warranty card completed and signed by the dealer on the day of purchase, or of the sales receipt. Shipment of the defective item for repair under this warranty will be at the customer's own risk and expense. This warranty is valid for the original purchaser as the final user only. AKG will, at AKG's option, repair or replace items returned for repair under this warranty.

• In some countries, product liability legislation may give you other rights beyond the scope of this warranty card. Where this applies, such rights shall replace the rights and conditions stated in this warranty card.

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**IMPORTANT:** This warranty does not cover damage resulting from accident, misuse or abuse, lack of reasonable care, the affixing of any attachment not provided with the product, loss of parts, or connecting the product to any receptacle other than those specified.

This warranty is void unless all repairs of this product are performed by AKG Acoustics' U.S. service center or the authorized AKG Service Center of Canada. AKG assumes no liability for any special, incidental or consequential damage caused by the user. However, the limitation of any right or remedy shall not be effective where such limitation may be prohibited by law.

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• Sont exclues de la garantie les piles et les pièces d'usure.

• La garantie est valable uniquement dans le pays où le produit a été acheté.

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*\* Para los productos de la marca Crown® y determinados micrófonos de condensador: 3 años de garantía limitada (puede encontrar más informaciones en el sitio web [www.akg.com](http://www.akg.com)).*

