

Due to the intrinsically larger mass {and physical size} associated with the thin corrugated metal ribbon, the frequency and phase response of a ribbon-type differential pressure microphone is usually not as good as e.g. the modern, compact high-tech electret-type differential microphones; ribbon microphones are therefore not often thought of as laboratory / research-grade quality devices. Still, ribbon mics have many storied uses in the now ~ century long history of sound recording.

Note that the frequency response of a ***differential*** pressure microphone of characteristic size d is ***not*** flat. The (complex) response function of the differential microphone as a function of (angular) frequency ω and wavenumber-differential mic axis opening angle Θ is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{H}_{diff-mic}(\omega, \Theta) &= 1 - e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{d}} = 1 - e^{-ikd(\hat{k}\cdot\hat{n})} = 1 - e^{-ikd\cos\Theta} = 1 - e^{i(\omega/c)d\cos\Theta} \\ &= 1 - \cos\left[(\omega/c)d\cos\Theta\right] + i\sin\left[(\omega/c)d\cos\Theta\right]\end{aligned}$$

For $kd = (\omega/c)d \ll 1$ (i.e. $\omega \ll c/d$) then:

$$\tilde{H}_{diff-mic}(\omega, \Theta) \approx 1 - \cos\Theta + i(\omega/c)d\cos\Theta = +i(\omega/c)d\cos\Theta$$

Thus, for $kd = (\omega/c)d \ll 1$ (i.e. $\omega \ll c/d$) the frequency response of a ***differential*** pressure microphone is such that it increases ***linearly*** with frequency (n.b. its response $\tilde{H}_{diff-mic}(\omega, \Theta) = 0$ at $\omega = 2\pi f = 0$). We also see that for $kd = (\omega/c)d \ll 1$ a ***differential*** pressure microphone has a ***frequency-independent*** phase shift of $+90^\circ$ relative to the incident sound wave (for $0 \leq \Theta \leq 90^\circ$).

As discussed above, it is necessary to ***integrate*** the signal output from a ***differential*** pressure microphone in order to obtain a signal that is proportional to the component of the particle velocity parallel to the \hat{n} -axis of the device. This can be achieved electronically using a simple integrating op-amp preamplifier circuit, as shown in the figure below:

