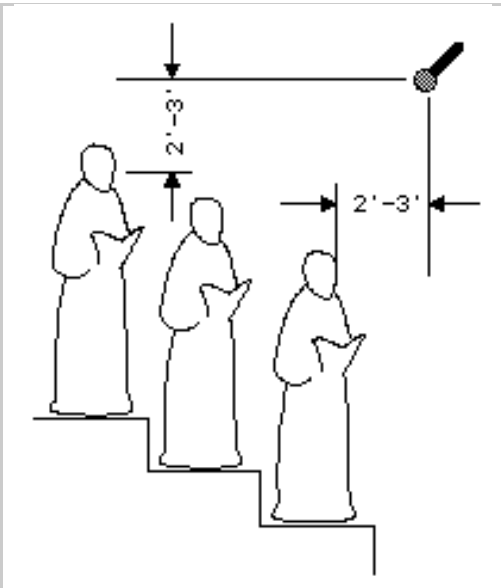
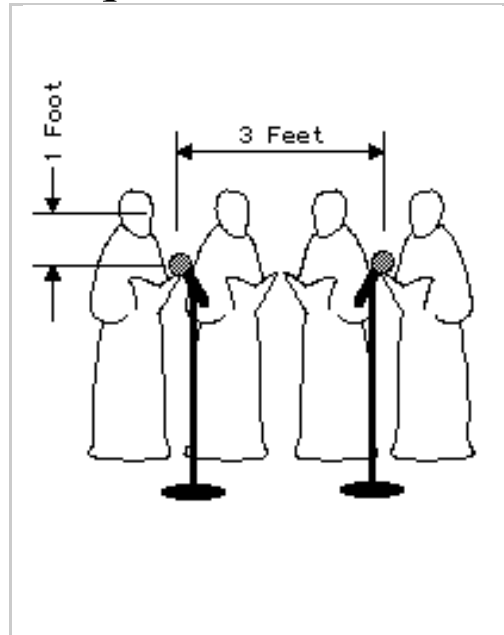


Technically Speaking

Choir Miking Techniques

It is very easy to make your sound worse when placing microphones for a large choir. Placing your mikes too close together can result in shifting holes in tone and can even make a whole section of your choir seem to disappear when the outputs from those mikes are combined at the mixer. It can ruin the sound of an otherwise good sound system. This problem can be avoided by keeping the microphones at least three times as far apart as either microphone is from the user. This 3 to 1 ratio is illustrated in the figure to the right.



Miniature hanging microphones for choir pickup have become very popular over the last few years and they can be very useful if you follow the following guidelines. Remember the 3 to 1 placement ratio as mentioned in the previous paragraph. Position your mikes so they are about two feet above the tallest person in the top row and around two feet forward of the front row as show in the Figure to the left. And finally don't try to cover more than three rows deep.

One final tip - Try to use as few microphones as is necessary to achieve a good choir balance. Too many microphones can add to the reverberation time in a hall and decrease the overall clarity of the sound system.