How to say “auch” and “auch nicht” in English

In German, we can say “auch” and “auch nicht” very simply:

- *Ich kann das auch.*
- *Ich kann das auch nicht.*

In English, “auch” and “auch nicht” are said with different constructions:

Option [Möglichkeit] 1

Positive statement

E	My sister was listening to music all evening	I did, **too**.
		I **also** did.
D	Meine Schwester hörte den ganzen Abend Musik	Ich **auch.**

To say “auch” we can use the words “too” and “also”, note that they are put in different positions in the sentence.

Negative statement

E	My brother couldn’t understand the president’s speech	I could**n’t** understand it **either**.
D	Mein Bruder konnte die Rede der Präsidentin nicht verstehen	Ich konnte sie **auch nicht** verstehen.
E	My brother couldn’t understand the president’s speech	I could**n’t either**.
D	Mein Bruder konnte die Rede der Präsidentin nicht verstehen	Ich **auch nicht**.

To say “auch nicht” we can use “not” + “either”. Note how the sentences are constructed with a normal negation [Verneinung] and the “either” at the end of the sentence.

Option 2

Positive statement

E	My sister was listening to music all evening	**So was I.**
D	Meine Schwester hörte den ganzen Abend Musik	Ich **auch.**

Another way of saying “auch” is using “so”. In this construction, the verb comes before the subject, so their positions are inverted [umgedreht] compared to a normal sentence. That’s why this construction is called inversion [Vertauschung].

Negative statement

E	My brother couldn’t understand the president’s speech	**Neither could I.**
		Nor could I.
D	Mein Bruder konnte die Rede der Präsidentin nicht verstehen	Ich **auch nicht**.

Another way of saying “auch nicht” is using “neither” or “nor”. In this construction, too, the verb comes before the subject. So this is also an inversion.