

DESN 275 Week 5 Multitrack Editing and Mixing

Assignment 1: Complete the mix of *Lullaby of Birdland* and submit a stereo mp3 file. The tracks were recorded at 110 bpm.

Include:

1. A gentle but just audible reverb of about 1 second, with no delay.
 2. Use part of the existing drum tracks (cut and paste) to create a believable 8-beat drum introduction before the other instruments start.
 3. Use pan to create a stereo spread: Lead soloist in center, bass near center. Other instruments to each side
 4. The result should have a robust level without any clipping. Submit a stereo MP3
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Assignment 2: We will begin a similar mix in class. Complete it and turn in a stereo MP3

Assignment 3 and 4: Two mixes

Using the basic tracks provided on drbraukmann.com, mix and master two stereo CD-quality songs with the characteristics listed below.

Also include a screen snapshot (jpg or png) of each final DAW settings. Show the important settings needed to achieve the different mix styles. For instance: a Studio One Mixer panel view with important inserts, effects, and sends visible.

(To make a screen snapshot on a Mac, press Apple + Shift + 3. Then look for a file called "screenshot" on the desktop).

• **Style 1:** A classic Nashville style mix: personal, slightly warm EQ, light reverb, light compression and plenty of space for each instrument or voice to be heard. (Examples will be shown in class and are posted.)

• **Style 2 Option 1: "Radio Mix" style** useable for AM radio format or TV commercial production, more-compressed, a bit more reverb and echo than Nashville, fat drums. Overall a *little* bright and slightly reduced low bass (under 80Hz). Brady Bunch example is given.

• **Style 2 Option 2: "New York" style** useable for pop, highly-compressed, lots of effects such as reverb and chorus on individual tracks, punchy and aggressive, fat (+100Hz) drums. A bit of overall boost in the low and high ranges. Two examples are given (Smithereens and Living Color) are given.

Common Characteristics for Both Versions:

- No clipping, pops or distortion added
 - Each track easy to discern, distinct when one pays attention to it.
 - Lead elements easy to hear but not louder than necessary over the background tracks.
 - No track obscuring another track
 - Overall left to right balance in the stereo mix
 - Lead elements and bass near stereo center
 - Some compression and tone manipulation on almost every track (EQ? Pass Filter? Chorus? Etc.)
 - Quiet/unnecessary track sections removed
 - Cross-fades on clip transitions
 - Aux send/returns used for overall reverb
 - One example of automation used.
 - A pleasant balance across all frequencies
 - Turn in as MP3
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Mix Style Notes

New York Style

Highly compressed

Thus punchy and aggressive

EQ boost high and low

"Recreate the energy of the event"

Smithereens, Mick Jagger She's the Boss

Living Color

Jagger – She's the Boss

Smithereens – any

Living Color – any

LA Style

More natural although still compressed

"Capture the event"

Doobie Brothers, Van Halen

London Style

Many effect layers

Highly compressed like New York

More complex arrangements

Lots of detail/busy work

Police

Yes – Owner of a Lonely Heart

Nashville Style

Started as simple, warm EQ, few layers

Rhythm track is important like later 70s pop

Ray Price – Jim Reeves

Today's Nashville

Much more compression. Denser mix.