

EQ In General

- Boost high frequencies to make something stand out
- Roll off the high frequencies to make it blend in
- *Cutting is usually better than boosting* because it doesn't change or distort the harmonics as much.

In other words, to "boost" a range like 2000-2500 Hz, you have two choices. You could simply boost the EQ in that range on the tool, OR you could cut every frequency from 20 – 2000 Hz and from 2500 to 20K Hz. You end up with similar EQ curves. But the one with the cuts might sound better than the one with the boost!

- Watch out for "over EQing". The *minimum* amount of boost or cut necessary is always the best choice, especially when all the tracks are mixed together for the final product. As a matter of fact, recording engineers have a bunch of microphones to pick from, and often try to find a microphone that has a natural frequency response that eliminates the need to EQ the track after it is recorded.

Bass EQ suggestions

- Want to hear more bass guitar? Boost 50 to 200 Hz
- Cut below 40 Hz to clean up the sound. No fundamentals below 40 Hz anyway.
- Cut at 300-350 Hz to tighten the notes
- Boost at 700-1K Hz to define the notes, and make them more clear in the mix.

Guitar EQ suggestions

- EQ for guitar -3dB at 2k smooths it out
- or +200 Hz and +450 Hz
- On acoustic guitars, mic choice and placement before recording always work better than EQ afterwards

Drums EQ suggestions

- Add 100 Hz for snare pop. And cut below 70 Hz
- Cymbals and high hats live in the 2K to 8K Hz range. Above 8K Hz you might find "air" or "sheen" that sounds good, especially in a acoustic or jazz setting.
- Cut 450 Hz range on kick drum, add 1K (or 2K?)
- classic kick: +60 -200 and +5500 for the click at the attack part of the envelope
- Remove cymbal trashiness by -2K

Voice EQ suggestions

- Cut below about 100 Hz to clean up the sound. Usually no fundamentals below anyway.
Typical -5dB at 80Hz, -8dB at 1kHz, +3dB at 10kHz
- EQ for background vocals, cut below 120 Hz, and sometimes even higher
- Need more clarity? Add in the 2.5K Hz range
- Want more intelligibility without boosting esses? Try boosting 1750 Hz & +5500 Hz ranges
- Where are the ess frequencies? Sweet 4k Sugar 6k (not my terms!)
- 1K to 3k Hz range is the most sensitive, and can carry harshness

Reverb EQ suggestions

- Often several reverbs will be used together, one thick, one bright, one longer, etc
- Often, one reverb might be long, bright, and *quieter*
- To make reverb stick out: *brighten*
- To make it fit, to fill in a space: *lower highs*
- *Reduce low frequencies on busy mixes*
- *Boost low frequencies on stark passages*
- *Longer reverb should be usually brighter shorter is usually darker*