

Using effects such as EQ & Reverb

Usually supplied as “plug-in” tools that can work with your digital audio workstation.

- Some bundled with Audacity, Studio 1, etc.
- Many very useful plugins are purchased separately, such as from WAVES.
 - Most common types: VST for most DAWs, AAX for Pro Tools
- Very good free ones from Voxengo, Tokyo Dawn, and others.
 - Macs also have **au** type plugins in the system library, that can be used in Audacity, or any other DAW you buy.

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Equalization or “EQ”

- A tone control. Bass & Treble are simple EQ adjustments. Boosts or cuts a range of frequencies.
- Adjust the timber of an instrument
 - Subjectively “warmer”, “brighter”, “less boomy”, “less harsh”
- Cutting out a steady state noise, like a hum
- Compensating for room acoustic problems
 - Make it less “muddy.” Or reduce notes that seem too loud.
 - Or add clarity. Or reduce the “esses.”
- Give competitive instruments room in the frequency range so that we can *hear them both clearly*.
- Make one recording sound like another.
- Fix a poor recording (“dull, boomy, tinny, thin”)

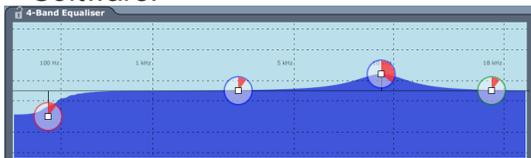
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EQ Tools

- An “evolved” bass and treble control
- Usually many bands of control across the Hz range of hearing.
- Hardware:



- Software:



Shelves

- A type of EQ that boosts or cuts every frequency above the selected frequency.
- A low shelf cuts frequencies below the selected frequency.

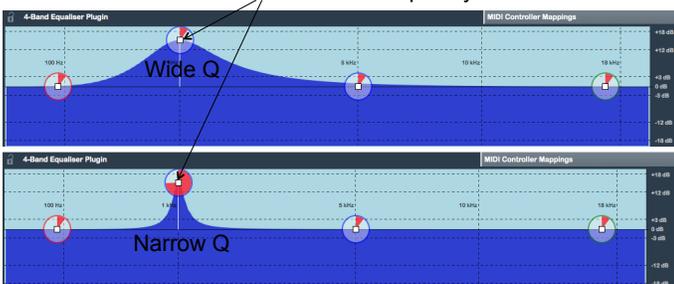


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Center Frequency, and Q

- The **Q** is how wide a range of frequencies are boosted or cut on each side of the center frequency.

This center frequency is set at 1000 Hz



High Pass & Low Pass “Filters”

- Sharply cut frequencies above or below a frequency threshold you set.
 - Remove the bass drum from the snare drum track HP
 - Remove the rumble caused by someone speaking too close to the microphone HP
 - Remove hiss from a bass track LP
 - Usually used on individual tracks, not whole mixes
- How sharply?
 - With a high-pass filter set at 200 Hz (the *threshold*), frequencies around 100 Hz will be about 1/4 as loud. And frequencies around 50 Hz about 1/8 as loud.

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