

Module 2 Readings:

Close mic technique: 1' to 3' from a sound source

Mix: Recording Vocals:

Steve Counter tries to get at least 10 feet away from the glass so he won't hear it. Get the headphone mix at the right level and the singer will sing at the right level. Micing different places on the singer/double micing can change the sound.

The Vocal Chain:

Pre-amp, then compression, then EQ (best to not use) then gain staging.

Keep it simple.

Different pre-amps are good for different genres of music.

Managing Sibilance:

What makes sibilance problematic?

Sharp hard sounds in places where our ears are sensitive. Distracting, Interferes with your mix. Blasts of air at mic.

What can we do to avoid it before we record it?

Mic technique, Dental wax in between teeth gap, Pencil to mic with rubber bands. Hang mic upside down with mic pointed in the direction of the sound, but not the air blasts. Gear, Signal chain, can affect sibilance.

What are the best options to fix it in the mix after it's recorded?

Static EQ cut, de-essing tools (plug ins): Izotope RX, Manually automate problematic s sounds.

### ***Inside the Box - Vocal Processing***

What is the best way to get a natural sound?

Mic choice/technique. Subtle EQ adjustments.

What general EQ works for live (stage) vocal tracks?

Broad cut below 200 Hz., 10 kHz boost for sibilance.

What is the author's widely-used compressor of choice?

Teletronix LA-2A

How can you use two compressors on one vocal track?

One will act more like a limiter (high threshold, high ratio and a fast attack), and one as a gentle compressor (soft knee' response).

What is *doubling*?

Doubling is an effect to give a voice a little more depth. You can do this by having the singer sing a "double" of the line, or by adding a plugin that will make a copy and delay it slightly and change its pitch slightly.

What is unique about a *plate reverb*?

A plate reverb uses a metal sheet with transducers attached to it. The vibrations of the audio through the plate are picked up and create this reverb sound that can be blended with the source sound.

What reverb presets is it recommended to start with on a vocal track in a mix?

A smaller room reverb with around a 1 second tail. Or an ambience reverb for a dryer recording.