



SMART DSP

MIXDOWN CRITICAL FEEDBACK GUIDE - A way to identify strenghts & weaknesses of a track -

With a mixdown made by someone else, your first critical listening will be the most important !

Therefore, in this case, before doing anything else i recommend taking a notepad when listening to the material the first time and writing down everything going through your mind. Your first intuition is usually reliable ! (Assuming that you have some decent monitors and a controlled listening environment).

It should already help you to point out the main weaknesses.

Then you want to listen again to the material, but this time you want to pay attention to the following :
You can listen multiple times if needed

- Is the volume balance accurate with the musical genre and sound aesthetic of the artist ?
- Low end well in mono ? Stereo gradually spreaded, not overspreaded ?
- Bass & Low end overall aren't too boomy or muddy ?
- Mids aren't aggressive/honky neither as empty/missing ?
- High are not to dull ? Harsh/aggressive ?
- Main instruments are clearly audibles ?
- Kick/Bass relation is well managed ?
- Voice is clearly audible ?
- Reverb/Delay well improve the track instead of drowning it ?
- The tonalities of the Reverb(s)/Delay(s) are well managed ?
- Compression is well adjusted, no negative pumping effect , no overcompression ?
- Different sections are dynamically mixed (and evolves well) ?
- The overall volume of the mix isn't to low/high ?
- No clipping/distortion/clicks hearable ?
- Did you find the orchestration/sound design entertaining ? Boring ?
- Did you enjoyed what you heard ?

Finally you may write a small conclusion based on your answers to the questions above and your first impression, that should point out pretty clearly the strenght and weaknesses of the mixdown.

I hope that this little guide may help you in some way, it is provided for free and with pleasure:)

But any feedback or even just a little sign of life if it has been helpful to you would be welcome, feel free to contact me for any questions as well .

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