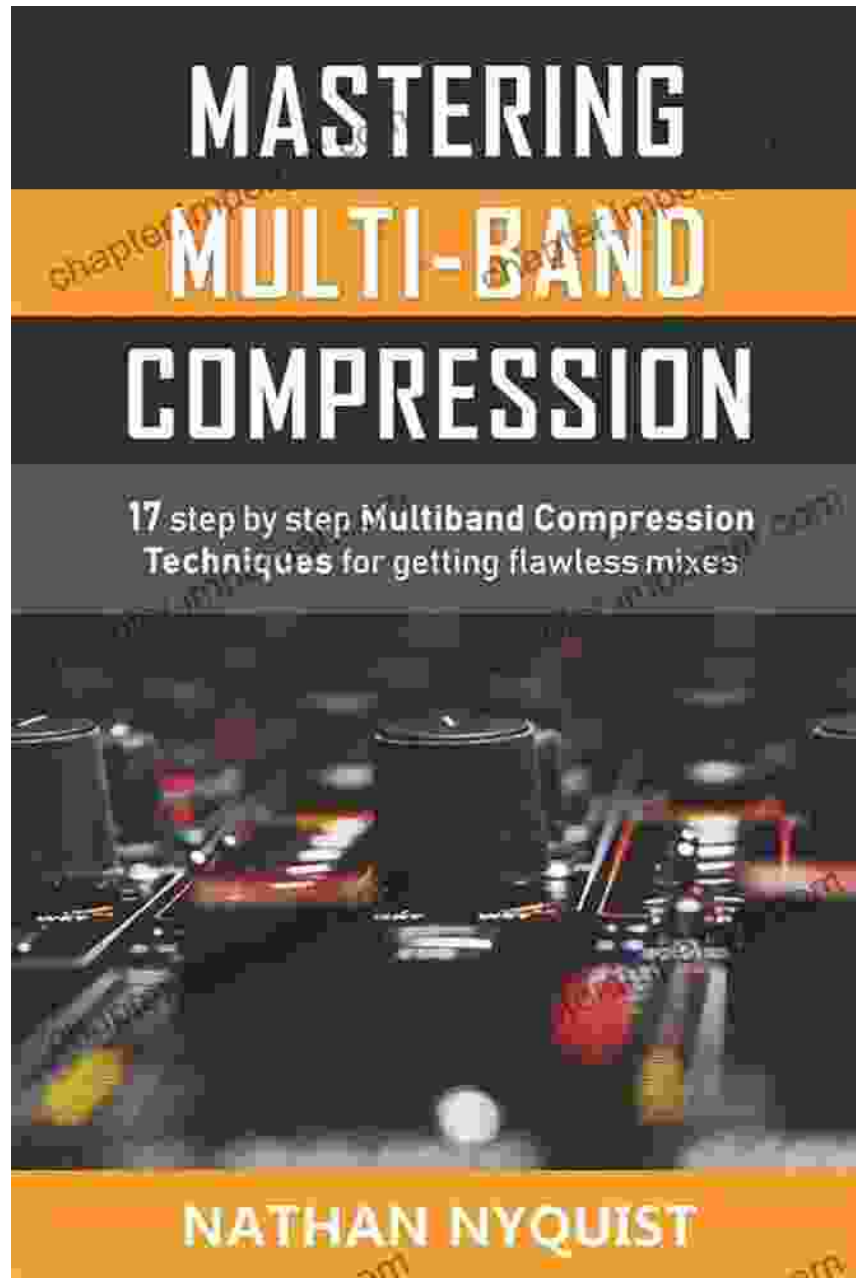
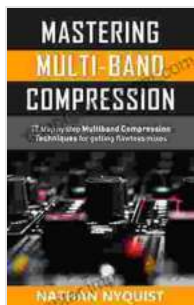


17 Step-by-Step Multiband Compression Techniques for Flawless Mixes



Multiband compression is a powerful mixing tool that can help you achieve a more polished and dynamic sound. By applying compression to different

frequency ranges independently, you can target specific elements of your mix and improve their clarity, balance, and impact.



Mastering Multi-Band Compression: 17 step by step multiband compression techniques for getting flawless mixes (The Audio Engineer's Framework Book 4)

by Nathan Nyquist

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In this article, we'll explore 17 step-by-step multiband compression techniques that will help you get the most out of this essential mixing tool. We'll cover everything from basic compression concepts to advanced techniques that will take your mixes to the next level.

What is Multiband Compression?

Multiband compression is a type of compression that applies different compression ratios to different frequency bands. This allows you to target specific elements of your mix and control their dynamics independently.

Multiband compressors are typically divided into two or more bands, each of which has its own set of controls. The most common types of multiband

compressors are two-band and three-band compressors.

Two-band compressors have a crossover frequency that separates the low frequencies from the high frequencies. The compressor can then be used to apply different compression ratios to each band.

Three-band compressors have two crossover frequencies, which divide the spectrum into three bands: low, mid, and high. This gives you even more control over the dynamics of your mix.

The Benefits of Multiband Compression

Multiband compression offers a number of benefits over traditional single-band compression. These benefits include:

* **Increased clarity and definition:** By applying compression to different frequency bands independently, you can bring out the details in your mix and make it sound more defined. * **Improved balance:** Multiband compression can be used to balance the levels of different instruments and vocals in your mix. This can help you create a more cohesive and pleasing sound. * **Reduced harshness:** Multiband compression can be used to reduce the harshness of certain frequencies, such as the high frequencies in a snare drum or the low frequencies in a bass guitar. This can help you create a more polished and professional-sounding mix. * **Increased loudness:** Multiband compression can be used to increase the loudness of your mix without sacrificing clarity or balance. This can help you create a mix that sounds loud and powerful without being fatiguing to the ears.

17 Step-by-Step Multiband Compression Techniques

Now that you understand the benefits of multiband compression, let's take a look at 17 step-by-step techniques that will help you get the most out of this essential mixing tool.

1. Start with a clean mix

Before you start applying multiband compression, it's important to make sure that your mix is as clean as possible. This means removing any unwanted noise, distortion, or other artifacts. A clean mix will help you get the best results from your multiband compressor.

2. Choose the right compressor

There are many different multiband compressors on the market, so it's important to choose one that's right for your needs. Consider the number of bands, the type of controls, and the overall sound of the compressor.

3. Set the crossover frequencies

The crossover frequencies divide your mix into different bands. The settings of these frequencies will depend on the specific compressor you're using and the material you're mixing.

4. Set the compression ratio

The compression ratio determines how much the compressor will reduce the dynamic range of the signal. A higher compression ratio will produce a more compressed sound, while a lower compression ratio will produce a more natural sound.

5. Set the attack time

The attack time determines how quickly the compressor will react to changes in the signal level. A faster attack time will produce a more aggressive sound, while a slower attack time will produce a more subtle sound.

6. Set the release time

The release time determines how quickly the compressor will release the gain reduction after the signal level has dropped. A faster release time will produce a more punchy sound, while a slower release time will produce a more sustained sound.

7. Set the threshold

The threshold determines the level at which the compressor will start to apply gain reduction. A higher threshold will produce a more transparent sound, while a lower threshold will produce a more compressed sound.

8. Listen carefully to the results

Once you've set all of the controls, listen carefully to the results. Make adjustments as needed until you're happy with the sound of your mix.

9. Use multiband compression on vocals

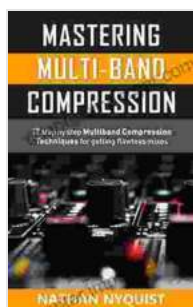
Multiband compression can be used to improve the clarity and definition of vocals. By applying compression to the low frequencies, you can reduce the boominess of the voice. By applying compression to the mid frequencies, you can bring out the warmth and body of the voice. And by applying compression to the high frequencies, you can increase the intelligibility of the lyrics.

10. Use multiband compression on bass guitar

Multiband compression can be used to improve the power and punch of the bass guitar. By applying compression to the low frequencies, you can increase the loudness of the bass without making it sound muddy. By applying compression to the mid frequencies, you can bring out the growl and attack of the bass. And by applying compression to the high frequencies, you can add a touch of sizzle and definition to the bass.

11. Use multiband compression on drums

Multiband compression can be used to improve the impact and clarity of drums. By applying compression to the low frequencies, you can increase the loud



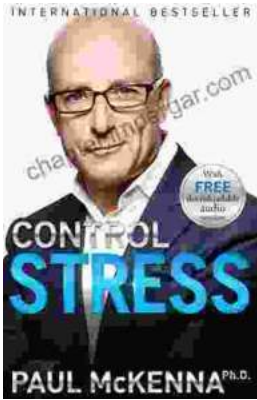
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