

The Set and Forget Way to Get an Instantly Professional Sounding Mix

If you're struggling to get your mixes to sound professional, you're not alone. Mixing can be a complex and challenging process, but it doesn't have to be. In this article, we'll share a step-by-step guide to getting an instantly professional sounding mix, even if you're a complete beginner.



The Bus Compression Framework: The set and forget way to get an INSTANTLY professional sounding mix (The Audio Engineer's Framework Book 3) by Nathan Nyquist

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1. Use a Reference Track

The first step to getting a professional sounding mix is to use a reference track. A reference track is a professionally mixed and mastered song that you can use as a guide to compare your mix to. When you're mixing, you'll want to try to match the overall sound of your mix to the reference track as closely as possible.

You can find reference tracks online or in music production magazines. Once you've found a reference track, import it into your DAW and listen to it carefully. Pay attention to the overall sound of the mix, as well as the individual sounds of each instrument. Note the levels, panning, and effects that are used on each track.

2. Gain Stage Properly

Gain staging is the process of setting the levels of each track in your mix so that they're all balanced and even. Proper gain staging is essential for getting a professional sounding mix, as it will help to prevent clipping and distortion.

To gain stage properly, start by setting the level of your loudest track to -6dB. Then, adjust the levels of the other tracks so that they're all around the same level. You can use a meter plugin to help you visually see the levels of each track.

3. Use EQ to Remove Unwanted Frequencies

EQ is a powerful tool that can be used to remove unwanted frequencies from your mix. Unwanted frequencies can make your mix sound muddy or cluttered, so it's important to identify and remove them.

To use EQ, start by listening to your mix carefully and identifying any frequencies that sound harsh or unpleasant. Once you've identified the unwanted frequencies, use an EQ plugin to cut them out. Be careful not to cut too much, as this can make your mix sound thin and lifeless.

4. Use Compression to Control Dynamics

Compression is another essential tool for getting a professional sounding mix. Compression can be used to control the dynamics of your mix, making it sound more consistent and polished.

To use compression, start by setting the threshold of your compressor to -6dB. Then, adjust the ratio and attack/release times to taste. Be careful not to compress too much, as this can make your mix sound flat and lifeless.

5. Use Reverb and Delay to Create Depth

Reverb and delay are two effects that can be used to create depth and space in your mix. Reverb simulates the sound of a room, while delay creates a series of echoes. Both effects can be used to add atmosphere and interest to your mix.

To use reverb, start by adding a small amount of reverb to each track in your mix. Then, adjust the decay time and mix amount to taste. Be careful not to add too much reverb, as this can make your mix sound muddy or cluttered.

To use delay, start by adding a short delay to each track in your mix. Then, adjust the delay time and mix amount to taste. Be careful not to add too much delay, as this can make your mix sound cluttered or disorienting.

By following the steps outlined in this article, you can get an instantly professional sounding mix, even if you're a complete beginner. Remember to use a reference track, gain stage properly, use EQ to remove unwanted frequencies, use compression to control dynamics, and use reverb and

delay to create depth. With a little practice, you'll be able to mix your tracks like a pro in no time.



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