

## Basic Mixing Techniques

*Paul White*

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**Paul White : Basic Mixing Techniques** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Basic Mixing Techniques:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 35 Year Veteran ReviewBy D HewlettBasic Mixing Techniques is about the basics of audio mixing for recording. It is one of thirteen books in a series designed to teach the basics of audio recording and the equipment used. The book was purchased during research to develop an audio class for church ministry volunteers. The goal was to communicate basic techniques and information that could be grasped and put to use quickly. This text provides that ability. In his introduction, Mr. White points out, "There's no substitute for experience" (White, 2009). Based on my 35 years experience I would have to agree. He goes on to say "there are usually a few simple guidelines you can follow to obtain good results quickly" (White, 2009) and this is the strength

the book brings to anyone wishing to either learn new skills or brush up on old ones. The "plot" of the book is centered on five key areas; planning, mixing tools, recording vocals, balancing, and mix automation. The order suggests the building of one area on the previous so the reader can be productive right away. As the reader progresses through the pages the new information is easily digested and integrated into the previous information to form a body of knowledge to reference during a recording session. In the planning section, Mr. White makes careful observations about the recording process and the need to start off on the right foot. In general, his point is that recording is a collaborative process. All participants in the process will be best served spending time on the frontend of a project building relationships and establishing expectations. Doing so will pay off in smoother sessions and a better product in the end. From planning the sequence of recording the material, to the necessity of running a virus checker on any digital material brought into the studio, the devil is in the details and communications the key. (White, 2009) This part should be required reading for anyone anticipating being part of a recording project. The planning chapter covers the basics of miking each type of instrument and vocals along with a part on arranging. In the first paragraph, Mr. White sums up the chapter by pointing out that bands tend to think they can simply do what they do live and record it and the project is done. (White, 2009) As those of us in this field know, that is not the case for 99.99% of the acts out there. In fact, the only time this works is if it is a live album, and even the live mix will most likely have some studio time to "fix" some of the mix problems. The chapter on tools is detailed enough to be relevant without being too detailed. Mr. White clearly understands that information overload is easy to achieve. He also uses this understanding to his advantage by directing the reader to his other books that provide the necessary detail where appropriate. He even uses this technique within the book by providing the detailed chapter on vocal recording. "Vocals, it can be argued, are the most important part of any mix". (White, 2009) Mr. White is clear and to the point in his explanation about devoting a complete chapter to the topic of vocals. An added benefit of this chapter and the one that follows, balancing, is that these techniques are also relevant to live mixing as well and a read will also benefit practitioners of that art. In the final chapter, mix automation, Mr. White covers the very basics of this extensive area of the recording art. Although it is an important topic in today's recording industry, the audience to which this book is addressed makes this topic more of a teaser than a real information chapter. Most readers will not have access to the tools that are needed for the automation of the mix process. In fact, the use of such tools initially will be a detriment to the long term development of the reader's skills as a recording engineer. I enjoyed reading Basic Mixing Techniques and feel it is a good book for the beginning recording enthusiast as well as a useful refresher for a more experienced engineer. Mr. White has done a very good job of providing relevant information in a manner that can easily be understood by those with little knowledge of the subject. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some good ideas, but it was written before the main ... By Paul Harper Some good ideas, but it was written before the main crush of DAW recording. So his references are sometimes old school. But that's OK as there are still some great ideas for everyone, even though it is more for the beginner. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Whole Lot of Bang for your Buck! By Jim Wicked I have no formal training with mixing audio, but have a few years of experience mixing my own and my friends' projects. Lately, I've been looking to advance my mixing abilities so that I can get the results I want faster and without constantly relying on trial and error. I ordered this book right after I'd ordered a copy of Mixing Audio: Concepts, Practices and Tools knowing full well that it was a small book of only two-hundred pages. I thought that at the very least, this would be a good book to use to associate myself with the formal terminology involved in mixing and refresh my knowledge of basic skills. This book does that and a whole lot more. What's nice about this book is that unlike so many other books that revolve around the technical aspects of music production, there is no fluff or filler. Right from the beginning, it jumps straight into the meat of the thing and is full of useful information. I learned a lot more from this book than I had expected to. A word of caution: This book was written over a decade ago before software took hold of the mixing world. This can be advantageous though in that it goes into details of how to get great use out of cheap hardware and explains how processes work that are normally automated within software and so are taken for granted. Absolutely invaluable for those of us who still love hardware production! Also, it should be noted that the glossary takes up a pretty large section of the book (about a third.) Still, with the insanely low price of this book, I'd say it's pretty much a no-brainer. For five bucks, you get a lot of information!

In music recording, the quality of a mix is every bit as important as the quality of the performance, and potential hit singles have been ruined by poor mixing. Basic Mixing Techniques blows the lid off the secrets of mixing and explains in easy and illustrated terms how you can create a professional-quality recording with even the most basic equipment.