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EQ

By Bruce Lee

The concept of EQ can be difficult to grasp. This article is meant to be a primer to enable you to have a basic understanding of what EQ is. Next month we'll provide some tips on adjusting EQ. Please note, we are focusing on the EQ on the board and not system EQ.

The hearing range of the human ear is from 20Hz to 20kHz. A mixing console passes these frequencies through each channel. When you raise or lower the fader, you are basically raising or lowering the volume of all these frequencies equally - you are making them all louder or all softer. When we adjust the EQ we are taking a range of these frequencies, sometimes a small amount and sometimes a large amount, and making them louder or softer. Depending on the range of frequencies we adjust, we can make an instrument or a vocalist sound brighter, muddier, warmer, more crisp, less prominent, more noticeable, harsher, more solid, etc., etc., etc. Of course, all these descriptions are very subjective. My "muddy" could be your "bassy" and your "warmer" could be my "too harsh". The ambiguity of sound

adjustments is what makes it difficult to learn yet provides us with almost unlimited combinations of adjustments to produce exactly what we want to hear. What do the knobs do?

The smallest mixers may have only two knobs. They adjust the gain, or the volume, of the high and the low. This would equate somewhat to a treble and bass control on a car radio. Get a little larger mixer and you'll see a third knob for the mid range. These mixers will have a high, hi-mid, lo-mid and low with some of them having two knobs for the hi-mid and lo-mid. This second knob is known as a sweep knob and allows the user to change the frequency on which the EQ is centered.

Think of it this way. If you were looking at a graph, the mid's look like a mountain when you raise them and a valley when you lower them. The sweep knob allows you to determine what frequency the center of the peak or valley will rest on.

Some larger analog mixers and all digital mixers give you another control which is known as the "Q". This allows you to adjust the width of the filter. You can think of it as making the mountain very wide

and sloping or making it more like a spike with very steep sides. The high's and the low's are known as shelving EQ's. As the name suggests, they sort of look like a shelf when you raise or lower them. Make sure no one is looking and do the following: (If you're real secure with who you are, then don't worry whether or not anyone is looking.) Lay your hand and forearm flat on the table. Keep your elbow on the table and raise your arm while keeping your hand flat (parallel with the table). If you were to graph a high or low EQ, this is what it would look like if you were to boost or raise the volume of the low or high EQ. If you cut or lower the volume it would be the opposite.

On some mixers you will see a lo-cut or high pass filter. Engaging this is similar to taking the low EQ knob and turning it all the way down. On smaller mixers this will usually cut frequencies from 80 to 125Hz and down. Larger mixers will usually give you some control as to what frequency your cut or pass will occur. Next month we'll look at how and when to use EQ and how to tell if you are using it properly.

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How are you honoring those who are not with you anymore?

By Yoli Lee

It sure is a reality! We know it from the day we are born, but it seems to be the hardest thing to accept. From the day we are born, we are guaranteed we will get old every second and we are guaranteed we will die (unless Jesus comes back before). Even though as Christians we have the certainty of eternal life, the physical separation still hurts tremendously. We can always find comfort in Revelation 21:4 (NIV) "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." But, until we see them again, what are we doing with the memories?

Every time my church publishes the monthly newsletter, I'm always drawn to the "Lost another friend" box where they list the people who passed away that month. We don't know everyone at church, so most of the time I don't recognize the name of the person who passed away. That really bothers me. However, last month we lost three people and it was different this time. Everyone told me I had to know this gentleman because he was an usher and greeted us many times. I came home and looked at an old pictorial church directory and saw his picture. I realized

I did know him and we had hugged many times, even without knowing each other's names.

It bothered me not to know his name when his death was announced. It also bothered me that other than the Memorial or Funeral service, we were not doing anything to honor the lives of those who have gone before us. What are you and your church doing to remember and honor those who gave their time, money, effort and prayers to your church? We should always strive to bring healing to those who are hurting over the loss of a loved one.

A practice that is becoming very popular in funerals is to present a video remembering the lost friend. Every time I have seen one presented, I see smiles coming from crying faces. It is encouraging to see people remembering that special moment when the photo was taken or explaining where it was taken. Even in the most difficult moments, God can give us a reason to smile! Are you giving someone in pain a reason to smile?

As you may know, I lost my Mom last year. I was making a video as her 75th birthday present, which she

never got to see. I took my laptop to Puerto Rico and my sister asked me to make a slide show of all the pictures that were going to be in the video. I just placed my laptop next to Mom's ashes and saw many, many people smiling, remembering our family's photos. When I felt I could handle it, I went back to finish her present. I gave it to my sisters, not to Mom. The video began in the 1930's with both my grandparent's wedding pictures. I recreated my parents' lives from the time they were born, as they grew up, got married, had three daughters, five grandsons... until we lost both of them. I "finished" the video with photos of my sisters and my family and "To be continued" where we pledge to continue our parents' legacy of love and commitment to our own families. It was hard to make that video. It was very hard! Many times I just had to leave the computer because I couldn't bear the pain anymore. But, many times, I caught myself smiling and sometimes even laughing remembering that silly picture or that silly face. It brought many tears, but it also brought healing. What are you doing to bring healing to those hurting at your church or in your life?



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