

Dave Rat Seminar

Waves to Wires Syllabus

Distilling Goals

- Perfect sound
- Live versus studio
- Mono, stereo and surround
- Memories, senses, connection, bubble

Using your ear as well as the gear

- Does our measurement gear give us the whole story?
- Specifications versus the way things actually sound
- Great sound is just an opinion

Background

- *Donuts*, recording, Hughes and Rat

Maintaining a clear view

- *Myopic focus*
- Tradeoffs and concessions

Cooperation versus conflict

- Multi-purpose versus specialists
- Hiring crews
- In polarity, out of polarity, summation and cancellation
- Sources and their clones
- Lots of sounds from a single source

Stage Polarity

- *Determining kick mic polarity*
- No kick hole
- *Propagating polarity throughout the rest of the kit*
- Other stages polarity concerns
- Reversing polarity
- Latency
- Overheads

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Transducer polarity and polar patterns

- Polarity versus direction
- Stage monitors and mic nulls
- Loudspeaker enclosures types and polar patterns

Capturing Sound

- Memories versus memorable
- Alter or capture
- Mic distance and inverse Square law
- Dynamic range and mic distance
- Recreating real versus unnatural contrasts
- Maximizing gain before feedback

Stage Volume

- Credibility, reason and goal
- Maintain the artist bubble
- Non volume related solutions
- Selecting a vocal mic
- Attention to detail
- Snapshots and repeatability

Reference and preference

- The right tools for the job
- Our constantly shifting perceptions
- Establishing comparative reference points
- What EQ's what

Our Value

- Getting what we want
- Accountability
- Establishing confidence

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Mixing the Rock Show

Eyes on the Road

- Workspace
- Light and height
- Mastering our craft
- Becoming an audience member
- Anticipation and divulging secrets
- Contraptions versus connecting

Preparation

- Optimizing sound check
- Mic chart
- Calibrating headphone level
- PFL versus AFL
- Tonal balance exposure
- Cheating

Mixing

- Volume mixing
- Dynamics
- Spatial placement
- Time
- Interference patterns
- Dual Pink
- Subs on an aux and beyond
- What is stereo and why?
- Looking at the overall show
- Vertical and horizontal hearing
- Audience perspectives
- Environmental factors, heat, wind, structures and noise