STUDY GUIDE

MAKING THE CONNECTION:

• What does a recording engineer do and what are the different types of engineers?
  o A recording engineer is the one responsible for recording music. Generally, they service the music producer and the artist. Recording engineers run the digital audio workstation, the music software that records the audio, as well as a mixing console and “track” (record) the instruments.
  o There are 3 different types of recording engineers
    ▪ Standard Recording or Tracking Engineer
      • Described above, records the music during a recording session
    ▪ Mix Engineer
      • A mix engineer is an engineer who specializes in mixing a song
        o Mixing a song is done after the song has been recorded. Mix engineers work on each individual track and finely craft them using equalization and compression and carving out their space in the frequency spectrum. Finally, they balance the sound/levels of all tracks to get a cohesive sound.
    ▪ Mastering Engineer
      • A mastering engineer specializes in the final stage of the music production process. Unlike mix engineers who work on every track, mastering engineers work on the one final stereo track. They make subtle equalization and compression moves to enhance the overall sonics of the recording. Finally, they increase volume to match other recordings in the songs genre.

• What are the different types of live audio engineers?
  o There are mainly 3 different types of live audio engineers:
    ▪ Front of House Engineer
      • This is the engineer most people think of when they think of live audio. They are the people running the mixing consoles. Their job is to capture live stage audio and mix it while the performance is happening
    ▪ Monitor Sound Engineer
      • This type of engineer is responsible for mixing sound and making adjustments to what the band or on stage performers hear in their headphones or monitors
    ▪ Systems Engineer
      • This engineer is the one responsible for design and set up of PA systems. While not directly working with live sound, this engineer is responsible for creating the systems the venue uses

• Audio for film and television
  o All of the roles above are utilized in film and television in some manner. There are some differences however because of the environment.

SAMPLE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

• What is the difference between a recording engineer and a live audio engineer?
  o The recording engineer strictly focuses on the recording of music while the live audio focuses on capturing audio in the best possible way for immediate consumption by an audience.
• Are music producers considered recording engineers?
  o Recording and manipulating audio is definitely a part of today’s modern music producer. However, most
    are not as versed in the vast technical aspects of audio recording.

• How would a person start to become an engineer?
  o The first step would be to learn a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)
  o Second, begin to learn about microphones and the various types and applications
  o Take a course on audio engineering or watch YouTube tutorials
  o Become a runner at a recording studio
    ▪ Most beginning engineers at a major recording studio start out as runners. There they will learn
      by watching professionals work with artists/bands and learn the craft.