



Online Course

“How To Get A Pro Voiceover Sound”

Handout 4: General mastering tips

Once you have a great raw/dry recording that doesn't sound boomy or boxy you can try the following settings for the audio plugin processing chain in your DAW:

1. **Equalizer:** Apply a high-pass filter between 80 and 100 Hz. Eventually boost 2-3 dB between 2 and 3 kHz to enhance clarity to taste.
2. **Compressor:** Set the ratio between 2:1 and 3:1, the threshold between -15 and -25 dB, the attack time between 2 and 5 ms and the release time between 20 and 50 ms. Switch the compressor on and off while you listen back to your recording and tweak the makeup gain to an amount where you think that the volume is somewhat similar with the compressor engaged and disengaged.
3. **Limitter:** A brick-wall limiter or maximizer is only necessary for very loud results. Otherwise you can simply normalize your processed audio for the delivery of finished recordings. If you want to apply such a limiter you can try to set the gain at +10 db with a ceiling of -1 dB to avoid overs/clipping when played back elsewhere.

Regarding de-essers: First try to apply the suggestions in this online course on how to handle sibilance. A de-esser plugin should only be used to catch those hard s-sounds that nonetheless can sometimes slip into your recording. Then tweak to taste according to the processing principle (compressor, phase cancellation, dynamic EQ) without the recording to sound dull or you to seem lisping.