

## INART 258A - Lab Assignment 3: Audio Remaster

**Due Tuesday, Feb 26**

Purpose:

The purpose of this assignment is for you to become familiar with importing audio into Pro Tools and using plug-ins, inserts, and energy-based effects to remove noise, shape timbre, modify dynamic range, and improve the sound quality of a recording.

Procedures:

**1. Select a recording:**

- a. This assignment requires you to insert energy-based effects into an audio track that contains a **recording of an isolated instrument** (i.e., a recording of drums alone, bass alone, voice alone, or solo piano, etc.). Do not use a fully produce recording with many instruments. There are many suitable recordings posted on Canvas under the heading "Samples for Lab 3."

**2. Make a new Pro Tools Session called NAME\_Lab\_3**

- a. Open a new Pro Tools Session.
- b. Make sure the session preferences are set to 24 bit and 44.1kHz.
- c. Name the session NAME\_Lab\_3 and save it in your personal folder at This PC: C: Pro Tools Documents: YOURINART258AFolder. (NOTE: NAME\_Lab\_3 is the session folder that you will compress and submit to me for a grade.)

**3. Import your audio file into Pro Tools**

- a. Copy the audio file you downloaded in Step 1 and paste it into NAME\_Lab\_3 folder.
- b. Import the audio file into Pro Tools by selecting File: Import: Audio
- c. When the import dialog box pops up, navigate to your audio file in NAME\_Lab\_3, select the audio file you pasted into NAME\_Lab\_3, click convert, and click done.
- d. If you are prompted to save, select the Audio Files folder within the NAME\_Lab\_3 folder.
- e. When the next dialog box pops up, select New Track (this will create a new track and place the audio file in it).

**4. Make a comparison track**

- a. Right click on the track name of your original track.
- b. Select duplicate.
- c. Rename the tracks "original" and "effects" by double clicking on each track name.
- d. Use the M (mute) button in either track (under the track name) to listen to one track or the other. You will add energy-based effects to one track, but leave the other "clean." Muting one track or the other will allow you to compare the two.

**5. Add energy-based effects (compression and equalization) plug-ins to the inserts of the "effects" track.**

- a. Make Inserts A-E visible by clicking on the Edit Window View Selector and checking Inserts A-E.
- b. In the "effects" track, add equalization by clicking the first tab in the Inserts A-E column. Then navigate to Multichannel Plug-ins: EQ and select any equalizer in the EQ plug-ins list. Change the plug-in settings to remove noise, shape timbre, and improve the sound quality.
- c. In the same track, add compression by clicking on the next tab in the Inserts A-E column. Then navigate to Multichannel Plug-ins: Dynamics and select any compressor in the Dynamic plug-in list. Change the plug-in settings to shape the dynamic range of the audio.

- d. **Do not use plug-ins from categories such as reverb or delay (these are time-based effect that require a different routing configuration in Pro Tools).**

Submission:

1. Bounce the **original track without effects** by muting the track with effects, selecting the audio region in the original track, and clicking File: Bounce to: Disk. Change multiple mono to interleaved and save the file in the Name\_Lab 3: Bounced Files folder.
2. **Mute the original track and bounce the track with effects** using the same process.
3. Close Pro Tools and zip your Name\_Lab\_3 session folder.
  - a. Right click Name\_Lab\_3 FOLDER and select Send to: Compressed (zipped) Folder.
4. Before class on Tuesday, Feb 26, share your zipped Name\_Lab\_3 session folder with me via [box.com](http://box.com), [dropbox.com](http://dropbox.com), google drive, or [wetransfer.com](http://wetransfer.com).

Please let me know if you have any questions: [jvh12@psu.edu](mailto:jvh12@psu.edu)