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Subject: Am I deaf or what?

Posted by [dnafe](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 15:35:48 GMT

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There is an ongoing debate at GearSlutz about the quality of soundblaster cards vs...

Three stereo audio wav files were presented and people are chiming in as to which is which.

My problem is I ran them through paris and I can't really hear a difference...there are subtle differences but not consistent enough for me to say one way or the other which is which

Could someone go to the thread and grab the full mix files, load them into paris and tell me if they can hear a difference.

<http://www.gearslutz.com/board/gear-shoot-outs-sound-file-comparisons-audio-tests/483563-sound-blaster-files-can-you-hear-difference.html>

Thanks

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?

Posted by [drfrankencopter](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 16:50:35 GMT

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Didn't listen in Paris, but at work thru a Dell and AT headphones. I listened to about 30 seconds of each tune.

Initial impressions: I thought A sounded a little smeared/distorted in the high end (hi-hat in particular), while B & C were close.

Cheers

Kris

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?

Posted by [kerryg](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 16:59:25 GMT

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Haven't got time to listen at the moment, but that won't stop me making a confident prediction - the winner will always be the one that's better written, better arranged and better played.

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?

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Posted by [rick](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2010 08:42:21 GMT

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don,  
could you please define what "what" is so the winner of the 2 choices can be declared.

thank you  
rick

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?

Posted by [dnafe](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2010 11:02:01 GMT

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The question posed was "is there a noticeable difference" between the three files generated by these three cards

Soundblaster  
Delta 1010  
Lynx Aurora

Some guys are hearing huge differences, some like me were hearing very little difference.

I will qualify my statement by saying I was at a very loud Nickelback concert on Sunday and my ears stop ringing only yesterday so that might have had something to do with my results because I tried again and was able to pick out all three files consistently as A / B or C.

Couldn't say which file was generated by which card as I am unfamiliar with all of them. As for the results...it seems that B is the overwhelming choice as the original source file

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?

Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2010 20:35:10 GMT

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Yeah, lots of angst over there...

I really wonder though, if the most important conversion is the AD off the top.  
All three files began as a performance captured through the Lynx. Therefore, clocking in particular is uniformly stellar.

Applying the old "whatever is upstream counts the most" reasoning, I really think that if these had been tracked through each of the same three cards at source, there would be much more significant difference.

As it is, all three get to work with a very good source. The DA is only half (maybe even less than half) of the equation IMO.

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Ted

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?  
Posted by [dnafe](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2010 21:13:11 GMT  
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Actually the test that was proposed was analogue tape (2 track) as source / Soundblaster / Lavry Gold or something similar run through a pair of high end monitors

Determine which file is which

Two studios were picked out, one in LA (where Mixerman lives) the other in NYC (where Ethan lives) Time and date to be determined and my understanding is Ethan backed out.

Then this test popped out of nowhere.

For the record my hearing is almost back to normal and I can hear differences in both the old set of files and the new set of files

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Subject: Re: Am I deaf or what?  
Posted by [rick](#) on Sat, 17 Apr 2010 09:45:17 GMT  
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don,

my question was a tongue in cheek way to ask what the "what" in on the "am i deaf or what".

i may be 60, but i can still tell time...and most times without help.

now i've got to get back to the banjo minnow infomercial to see how it ends.

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