
Subject: My evolving position on the Paris sound vs. PT.
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Wed, 12 Apr 2006 04:42:20 GMT
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I sold my PT rig when I switched to Paris. I did it at the time primarily for the sound of the Paris mix bus. This was before HD.

When HD was released, the distinction was far less obvious. HD still sounds different from Paris but not awful anymore, just different. Paris still has more of an analog/tape sound plus the added benefit of sounding more aggressive when you push the gain stages.

So now the big question! Do I prefer the sound of Paris over other DAWs because it actually makes better sounding recordings, or is it because it is closer to the sound I associate with my favorite albums from the last 30 years?

I think the truth is closer to the second, and I think this is largely a learned behavior, empirical rather than based on any truth.

In a recent session at another producer's studio (who will remain unnamed), I listened to some pop-rock mixes done on a Paris rig. The sound was big and clear and sounded very tape-like. Overall it sounded quite good and not at all wimpy. The artist however hated the sound. He played us a number of recent albums known to have been recorded in PT or similar sounding DAWs as examples of what he wanted. This is the sound he knows and more important it is the sound he likes! Yikes!! Compressed to a dynamic range of about 10db and very little sense of depth, space or stereo width.

Music may be universal but we all know it comes with cultural bias. How many American teens would choose to listen to a steady diet of microtonal music? Might as well serve up a big plate of Haggis... And it not just teens. Labels work the exact same way. If someone has a hit record that sounds crappy, all the labels want the same crappy sound.

Suddenly I am feeling very old. Fashions change taste changes but I thought good sound was forever. Perhaps not so. As a producer who still has at least one toe in the current market, I need to have some awareness of the realities of the market and the "new sound" is the new sound.

My personal taste has not changed. For most projects that I foresee myself working on, I will continue to use Paris, but just as I have made decisions in the past to use SSL consoles rather than Neve to achieve a more trendy "Pop" mix, I am now experimenting with ways to capture the "elusive PT sound". (Insert appropriate emoticon).

Luckily it was reasonably easy to achieve. I recently purchased the Waves SSL bundle and running that in Logic can get me very close to the sound of

better sounding PT mixes. So I can still use Paris whenever I like and I can experiment with a mix of the two styles.

What does all this mean? Nothing other than I understand why some people may prefer the way other systems sound and I think that my own preferences are biased by many years of listening to records made the old way. I don't see giving up Paris any time soon but I also don't think it's worth fighting over if someone else has different opinions on what sounds good.

day we will once again be "in".

Gene
