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Subject: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 16:02:15 GMT

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1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of that emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation. And of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things on everything. And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast for many of the places where people put them. Like electric guitars, which shouldn't really need compression anyway. I hear mixes from my friends and the percussive attack of the notes are just gone. It's mush. And nine times out of ten I say, 'Hey, you're using an LA-2A on the guitars aren't you?' and then they think I'm some golden ears genius. No, your guitars sound like shit.

2. Multiband compressors. I don't think I need to explain this.

So, on my upcoming Monkees mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going to make sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first. I solemnly swear to the entire PARIS newsgroup.

TCB

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 16:59:16 GMT

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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast for  
>many of the places where people put them. Like electric guitars, which shouldn't  
>really need compression anyway.

Check this out:

<http://www.barberelectronics.com/tonepress.htm>

The blend knob allows parallel processing right in the box and it makes compression work really well on guitar. It sounds terrific even on really aggressive guitar sounds.

DC

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Neil](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 17:29:59 GMT

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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>

>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of that  
>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.

And

>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But  
>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things on  
everything.

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>many of the places where people put them.

Which is why a lot of people like the 1176 for guitars - it  
lets the initial transients through while crushing the shit out  
of the rest of the signal.

>Like electric guitars, which shouldn't really need compression  
anyway.

Depends on the rest of your sonic content - sometimes a little  
squeeze on the guitars helps to bring other things out in the  
mix better... for me, compression in this case is more about  
making the guitars "sit down" rather than stand out. Where I  
think people fuck up is to record a distorted guitar with  
compression... it's really already compressed, when you think  
about it, so if you track it with more compression on it, you've  
kinda screwed yourself out of some dynamics before you even get  
to hear how it sounds in context with everything else.

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Try one on kick sometime... set a 3-band one for 200 to 300hz on  
the top end of the low band, and 3k-ish on the low end of the  
high band, smash the crap out of it, then duck down the  
level/output of the mid band ;) )  
You may never EQ a kick again.

>So, on my upcoming Monkeys mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going to make  
>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first.

Stick with Lead vox & snare applications for the LA-2A & you'll  
probably fall in love with it.

Neil

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 17:46:21 GMT

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Of course, Neil, they're both great tools when used appropriately, but most people don't. The reason I brought it up was because I got a CD from someone and they want me to buff up the stereo tracks a little before they have it printed. They're good friends and I want to help but there's no headroom left (they mixed with a multi-band compressor AND an LA-2A across the 2-bus) and I have to decide to either tell them the truth or squish it a teensy bit more and give it back to them. And they're a good band so I'd like that to be reflected on their recordings.

I still think being a synth guy and having to understand envelopes as modulators is a huge advantage when thinking about compression.

TCB

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>>

>>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of that

>>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.

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>>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But

>>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things on

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>>And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast for

>>many of the places where people put them.

>

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>lets the initial transients through while crushing the shit out

>of the rest of the signal.

>

>>Like electric guitars, which shouldn't really need compression

>anyway.

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>making the guitars "sit down" rather than stand out. Where I

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>about it, so if you track it with more compression on it, you've

>kinda screwed yourself out of some dynamics before you even get

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>probably fall in love with it.  
>  
>Neil

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 18:00:20 GMT  
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Compression on the way to the amp, esp for clean sounds or that Roger McGuinn  
twang, is one thing. I'm talking at mixdown, which I think is very different.

TCB

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

>  
>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
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>  
>The blend knob allows parallel processing right in the box and it  
>makes compression work really well on guitar. It sounds terrific even  
>on really aggressive guitar sounds.  
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>DC

---

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

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Posted by [DC](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 18:15:34 GMT

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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>  
>Compression on the way to the amp, esp for clean sounds or that Roger McGuinn  
>twang, is one thing. I'm talking at mixdown, which I think is very different.  
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>TCB

In the mix, I use a lot of parallel compression and it works even for heavy and punky guitar sounds.

As far as the pedal goes, it kills on way more than clean or twangy sounds. You should hear it, it would work on your stuff IMO.

DC

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Carl Amburn](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 18:23:39 GMT

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Could be wrong here, but this is cracking me up a little bit - isn't the point he was making to \*not\* use compression on guitars - and... you guys are all submitting tons of compressors to try out..... !!! Funny, man.

rock on,  
-Carl

"DC" <dc@spammersinthemix.com> wrote in message news:46323dc6\$1@linux...

>  
> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
> >  
> >Compression on the way to the amp, esp for clean sounds or that Roger McGuinn  
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> As far as the pedal goes, it kills on way more than clean or twangy  
> sounds. You should hear it, it would work on your stuff IMO.

>  
> DC  
>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 19:26:50 GMT

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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>  
>Of course, Neil, they're both great tools when used appropriately, but most  
>people don't. The reason I brought it up was because I got a CD from someone  
>and they want me to buff up the stereo tracks a little before they have  
it  
>printed. They're good friends and I want to help but there's no headroom  
>left

In cubase, what if you dropped the gain on the files (not the track level controls, the actual file) by about 3 to 5 db & give yourself some headroom?

Or does the waveform already look like it's just got a crewcut all the way across the top?

Neil

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 19:56:33 GMT

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Crewcut? I'd love a crewcut, this more of a tabletop vibe.

TCB

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>  
>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
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>yourself some headroom?  
>  
>Or does the waveform already look like it's just got a crewcut  
>all the way across the top?  
>  
>Neil

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 20:15:48 GMT  
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In one of the interviews I did for Home Recording years ago I was talking to the guy who did a couple of Pearl Jam records. I forget his name. Funny guy. Anyway, I asked what he thought was the single most important thing to getting a good drum mix and he said, 'Cut as much as you can at 400 Hz.'

TCB

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>  
>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
>>  
>>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of that  
>>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.  
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>>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But  
>>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things on  
>everything.  
>>And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast for  
>>many of the places where people put them.  
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>Which is why a lot of people like the 1176 for guitars - it  
>lets the initial transients through while crushing the shit out  
>of the rest of the signal.  
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>>Like electric guitars, which shouldn't really need compression  
>anyway.  
>  
>Depends on the rest of your sonic content - sometimes a little  
>squeeze on the guitars helps to bring other things out in the  
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>making the guitars "sit down" rather than stand out. Where I  
>think people fuck up is to record a distorted guitar with

>compression... it's really already compressed, when you think  
>about it, so if you track it with more compression on it, you've  
>kinda screwed yourself out of some dynamics before you even get  
>to hear how it sounds in context with everything else.  
>  
>>2. Multiband compressors. I don't think I need to explain this.  
>  
>Try one on kick sometime... set a 3-band one for 200 to 300hz on  
>the top end of the low band, and 3k-ish on the low end of the  
>high band, smash the crap out of it, then duck down the  
>level/output of the mid band ;)  
>You may never EQ a kick again.  
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>>So, on my upcoming Monkeys mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going to  
make  
>>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first.  
>  
>Stick with Lead vox & snare applications for the LA-2A & you'll  
>probably fall in love with it.  
>  
>Neil

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 21:08:44 GMT  
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Then you desperately need a good expander.

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>  
>Crewcut? I'd love a crewcut, this more of a tabletop vibe.  
>  
>TCB  
>  
>"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:  
>>  
>>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
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>>>printed. They're good friends and I want to help but there's no headroom  
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>>yourself some headroom?  
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>>Or does the waveform already look like it's just got a crewcut  
>>all the way across the top?  
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>>Neil  
>

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 21:34:24 GMT  
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Not that I disagree... but my vote would be:

1. Autotune
2. Autotune

Gantt

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>  
>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of that  
>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.  
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>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first. I  
solemnly  
>swear to the entire PARIS newsgroup.  
>  
>TCB

---

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 23:09:30 GMT  
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Actually, the point was about parallel processing on compression, which doesn't sound squashed. It can be done with any compressor on mixdown, but there is only one pedal that does it.

best,

DC

"Carl Amburn" <carlamburn@hotmail.com> wrote:

>Could be wrong here, but this is cracking me up a little bit - isn't the  
>point he was making to \*not\* use compression on guitars - and... you guys  
>are all submitting tons of compressors to try out..... !!! Funny, man.

>

>rock on,

>-Carl

>

>"DC" <dc@spammersinthemix.com> wrote in message news:46323dc6\$1@linux...

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>> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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>> >Compression on the way to the amp, esp for clean sounds or that Roger

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>>

>> DC

>>

>

>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 23:11:54 GMT

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

>  
>Actually, the point was about parallel processing on  
>compression, which doesn't sound squashed. It can be  
>done with any compressor on mixdown, but there is  
>only one pedal that does it.

Two... the Dan Armstrong Orange Squeezer (if you can ever find one anywhere).

Neil

---

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 23:40:13 GMT

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Damn!!!.....and I bought 4 UAD cards so I could run 87 of those things!!!!

;oD

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:46321e87\$1@linux...

>  
> 1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of  
> that  
> emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.  
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> of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But  
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> say, 'Hey, you're using an LA-2A on the guitars aren't you?' and then they  
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> TCB

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2007 23:47:50 GMT  
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The Orange squeezer is a GREAT sounding box. But no blend knob.

And they are being re-issued!

[http://www.wdmusic.com/category\\_13466.htm](http://www.wdmusic.com/category_13466.htm)

DC

"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

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>Neil

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Sat, 28 Apr 2007 00:28:47 GMT  
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HOLY CRAP!! I'm gonna have to get one - those are the best Bass compressors, EVER... they're OK for guitar to get that sound we were mentioning, but IMO for bass they absofuckingloutley crank.

Only thing is, Gotta de-solder the input & output hot leads & switche 'em around, though... that way you can stick the "plug" end of the box in your amp input, instead of having it dangle from your guitar jack (which is a physical impossibility in the first place, if you play a strat - think about it).

Neil

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>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Sat, 28 Apr 2007 00:37:27 GMT

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I played one of the reissues when some of the prototypes were floating around. I think like they got it right.

That box really works.

DC

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OI.com> wrote:

>  
>HOLY CRAP!! I'm gonna have to get one - those are the best Bass  
>compressors, EVER... they're OK for guitar to get that sound we

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>>DC

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>>>Neil

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Nei](#) on Sat, 28 Apr 2007 04:17:47 GMT

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Thadster, send me the files if you want me to fuck with 'em & see what I can do (I've got a couple of expansion tricks that mite jeeest work).

Neil

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>Then you desperately need a good expander.

>

>

>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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>>Crewcut? I'd love a crewcut, this more of a tabletop vibe.

>>

>>TCB

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>>"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

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>>>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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>>>Or does the waveform already look like it's just got a crewcut

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>>>Neil

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>

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 29 Apr 2007 04:12:40 GMT

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Touche

TCB

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote:

>  
>Not that I disagree... but my vote would be:  
>  
>1. Autotune  
>  
>2. Autotune  
>  
>Gantt  
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>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Sarah](#) on Sun, 29 Apr 2007 04:16:22 GMT  
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---

OK, I'm halfway with you.

1. Autotune



## 2. Quantizing

Sarah

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
news:46326c60\$1@linux...

>  
> Not that I disagree... but my vote would be:

>  
> 1. Autotune

>  
> 2. Autotune

>  
> Gantt

>  
>  
> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>>  
>>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of  
>>that

>>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.

> And

>>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But

>>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things on

> everything.

>>And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast for

>>many of the places where people put them. Like electric guitars, which

>>shouldn't

>>really need compression anyway. I hear mixes from my friends and the

>>percussive

>>attack of the notes are just gone. It's mush. And nine times out of ten

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>>say, 'Hey, you're using an LA-2A on the guitars aren't you?' and then they

>>think I'm some golden ears genius. No, your guitars sound like shit.

>>

>>2. Multiband compressors. I don't think I need to explain this.

>>

>>So, on my upcoming Monkeys mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going to

>>make

>>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first. I

> solemnly

>>swear to the entire PARIS newsgroup.

>>

>>TCB

>

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sun, 29 Apr 2007 04:58:40 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I happen to like both of those tools and think it's more the ID ten T loose  
nut driving the keyboard.

:)

AA

"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote in message news:46341cf1\$1@linux...  
> OK, I'm halfway with you.

>

> 1. Autotune

>

> 2. Quantizing

>

> Sarah

>

>

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> news:46326c60\$1@linux...

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>

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 06:28:04 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I totally disagree with all who said Auto-tune. It's effect (autotune)just like a phase-shifter, chorus, flanger. And, and can save a great vocal performance..

My vote would go to the beat boxes(R8, 808, MPC)

"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

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>

>1. Autotune

>

>2. Quantizing

>

>Sarah

>

>

>"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message

>news:46326c60\$1@linux...

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---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 15:10:05 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

The 808 and MPC?!? You can't possibly be serious!

TCB

"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:  
>  
>I totally disagree with all who said Auto-tune. It's effect (autotune)just  
>like a phase-shifter, chorus, flanger. And, and can save a great vocal performance..  
>  
>My vote would go to the beat boxes(R8, 808, MPC)  
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---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 16:49:31 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

My pick (in order)

- 1) MAC
- 2) PC

;-)

David.

I was at a clients place over the weekend... he has 3 - 2" machines.  
Ahhhh the smell of TAPE in the morning!

LaMont wrote:

> I totally disagree with all who said Auto-tune. It's effect (autotune)just  
> like a phase-shifter, chorus, flanger. And, and can save a great vocal performance..  
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> My vote would go to the beat boxes(R8, 808, MPC)  
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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 17:33:09 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

yah man, I do miss that smell.

AA

"EK Sound" <askme@nospam.com> wrote in message news:46361e99\$1@linux...  
> My pick (in order)  
>  
> 1) MAC  
> 2) PC  
>  
> ;-)  
>  
> David.



> I was at a clients place over the weekend... he has 3 - 2" machines. Ahhhh  
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>>>news:46326c60\$1@linux...  
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>>>  
>>

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Gary Flanigan](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 18:02:34 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I'm not sure if this predates the computer age, but I think the music video

did a great deal to damage music. It did this in several ways. First, it placed a fixed visual image in your brain associated with the song. This pretty much made it impossible to have the music only and fit it into some context in your life. Second, it moved the focus to visual content instead of aural content. To quote one of my older songs:

"Images upon the screen  
finish our imagining  
first we watched the singers dance  
now we watch the dancers sing"

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 18:50:44 GMT  
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---

"Gary Flanigan" <gary\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov> wrote in message news:46362f3a\$1@linux...

>  
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>  
>

Back in the late 70's an Austin musician named Chris Geppert was heading up a cover band by the name of Christopher Cross. They used to play lots of private parties and played a lot of gigs at local clubs there, most often at a nightclub called Steamboat 1874 and it's sister club downtown called Steamboat Springs. One of my good friends, a guy named Kerry Flynn, was the owner/manager of Steamboat 1874 and we used to hang with these guys a bit. Chris was a good songwriter, had a decent voice and was a fairly proficient guitar player. The band played lots of his original songs at the club gigs. He ended getting picked up by a label (I forget which one now) and the band was flown out of LA and Michael O'Martian produced their first (and only) album. Lots of major session musicians played on the album and though the band members were good players and could hold their own, Chris was just no match for guys like Larry Carlton (who played lead on the album). They got

major airplay with songs like Ride Like the Wind and Sailing. There were lots of other good songs on the album too...not much filler at all. When they started touring to promote the album, MTV was just getting started and they did a video. Chris looked a bit like the Pillsbury Doughboy. Chris' lack of photogeniety, along with the fact that they didn't bring along the studio guitar slingers to flesh out the musical prowess and give the audiences a semblance of the signature chops on a lot of the album cuts, plus pretty much insured that a second album never happened.....but he did get his 15 minutes and his songs still get airplay on the oldies stations(mailbox money). Had he looked like David Lee Roth (I think he could have even developed a "Meatloaf" kinda \*ugly rocker\* persona if he had been the type to get into wrteched excess.....he was a family man though) and fired his band, he would have probably been more successful. He had lots of good songs in the can back then.

;o)

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 19:02:11 GMT

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---

"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

>OK, I'm halfway with you.

>

>1. Autotune

Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the other day as opposed to the car-horn tritones that supposedly passed for vocal harmonies on Jan & Dean's "Surf City" when it came on the Oldies station I was listening to.

>2.) Quantizing

If you had been working on the string arrangement I was fighting with over the past two weeks, you'd have BEGGED for the ability to quantize the backing track. I know I was.

Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 19:06:28 GMT

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"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com> wrote in message news:46363b5f@linux...

>

> "Gary Flanigan" <gary\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov> wrote in message  
> news:46362f3a\$1@linux...  
>>  
>> I'm not sure if this predates the computer age, but I think the music  
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> wrteched excess.....he was a family man though) and fired his band, he  
> would have probably been more successful. He had lots of good songs in the

> can back then.  
>  
> ;o)

Hmmm...actually, I now that I've started thinking about this I seem to recall that that he did cut at least two and maybe three albums and I think Warner was the label. Everyone was partying so much during the 80's, I don't remember parts of it...;oP. The first one was the major opportunity for rock stardom though. He wrote one of the songs in the movie Arthur, or Tootsie or somesuch kinda' movie as well, IIRC.

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [DC](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 20:03:20 GMT  
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"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the  
>other day as opposed to the car-horn tritones that supposedly  
>passed for vocal harmonies on Jan & Dean's "Surf City" when it  
>came on the Oldies station I was listening to.

This, as I am sure you know, is a very slippery slope. After all, that is how they sang it... Would you autotune Buddy Guy's bent notes? I would not. OTOH, for much commercial and demo work, there is no intent to sound different, there is simply incompetence. In those cases, the client and the end users don't want it to sound they way they actually performed it, so have at it.

I reach for those sorts of tools as a last resort only, much preferring to ask them to do another take.

DC

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 20:06:34 GMT  
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---

He was a client of mine when I was at Westlake Audio...  
  
small world.

Nice guy.

DC

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 20:50:49 GMT

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They weren't the Every Brothers, but I don't remember Jan & Dean being all \_that\_ bad. Didn't they do Dead Man's Curve too? I thought the harmonies on that were pretty good, though it's been years since I've heard it. But my ear for pitch is only so-so, nowhere near as good as my ear for tempo, so I usually let the other band members decide if the harmonies are tight enough. Live, I seem to sing better than in the studio, maybe because I've been drinking and just belt it out, I've always been pleasantly surprised when I hear our live vocals and completely horrified when I hear my studio tracks.

However, I'm the official tempo Nazi in the band. And the designated guitar volume Nazi, anti-compression Nazi, less reverb Nazi, and a couple of other ones that don't come immediately to mind.

TCB

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

>>OK, I'm halfway with you.

>>

>>1. Autotune

>

>Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the other day as opposed to the car-horn tritones that supposedly passed for vocal harmonies on Jan & Dean's "Surf City" when it came on the Oldies station I was listening to.

>

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>Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Neil](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 22:00:43 GMT

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---

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>

>They weren't the Every Brothers, but I don't remember Jan & Dean being all  
>\_that\_ bad. Didn't they do Dead Man's Curve too? I thought the harmonies  
>on that were pretty good, though it's been years since I've heard it.

I think they did do "Curve", but trust me on this... seek  
out "Surf City" if you want to hear the human voice's best  
impression of a car horn, ever.

"TooOOo girls for evvvery BooOooOOyyyyy...."

and on a few of the "Ooo-Ooo-EEEEe-ooo's", too.

Believe me, if they had had Autotune then, they would've used it.

:)

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 22:32:37 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

How about a a need more cowbell Zionist?

TCB wrote:

>

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>

> TCB

>

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>>  
>> Neil  
>

--  
Chris Ludwig

ADK Pro Audio  
(859) 635-5762  
www.adkproaudio.com  
chrisl@adkproaudio.com

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---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Sarah](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 22:48:39 GMT  
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---

Imagine the Rolling Stones autotuned and quantized. Eeeyooo. It hurts just thinking about it.

S

"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote in message news:46341cf1\$1@linux...  
> OK, I'm halfway with you.  
>  
> 1. Autotune  
>  
> 2. Quantizing  
>  
> Sarah  
>  
>  
> "Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
> news:46326c60\$1@linux...  
>>  
>> Not that I disagree... but my vote would be:  
>>  
>> 1. Autotune  
>>  
>> 2. Autotune  
>>

>> Gantt  
>>  
>>  
>> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
>>>  
>>>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations of  
>>>that  
>>>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.  
>> And  
>>>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch. But  
>>>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things on  
>> everything.  
>>>And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast for  
>>>many of the places where people put them. Like electric guitars, which  
>>>shouldn't  
>>>really need compression anyway. I hear mixes from my friends and the  
>>>percussive  
>>>attack of the notes are just gone. It's mush. And nine times out of ten  
>> I  
>>>say, 'Hey, you're using an LA-2A on the guitars aren't you?' and then  
>>>they  
>>>think I'm some golden ears genius. No, your guitars sound like shit.  
>>>  
>>>2. Multiband compressors. I don't think I need to explain this.  
>>>  
>>>So, on my upcoming Monkeys mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going to  
>>>make  
>>>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first. I  
>> solemnly  
>>>swear to the entire PARIS newsgroup.  
>>>  
>>>TCB  
>>  
>  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 23:05:41 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com.> wrote:  
>  
>"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:  
>  
>>Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the  
>>other day as opposed to the car-horn tritones that supposedly  
>>passed for vocal harmonies on Jan & Dean's "Surf City" when it

>>came on the Oldies station I was listening to.  
>  
>  
>This, as I am sure you know, is a very slippery slope. After all,  
>that is how they sang it... Would you autotune Buddy Guy's  
>bent notes? I would not. OTOH, for much commercial and  
>demo work, there is no intent to sound different, there is  
>simply incompetence. In those cases, the client and the  
>end users don't want it to sound they way they actually  
>performed it, so have at it.  
>  
>I reach for those sorts of tools as a last resort only, much  
>preferring to ask them to do another take.  
>  
>DC  
>

I'm with Don on this one. In fact, frightening as they may sometimes be,  
I'll take the original vocals of those tunes over whatever autotuned monstrosities  
they'd be if they were made today. Maybe I'm a masochist.

I'm thinking in particular of an old tune I had once. "Like Maddy" or "Like  
Matty" -- the most astoundingly lame vocal I ever heard on a 45, but oddly  
charming in its innocence. Were it to be autotuned, it would be without charm  
whatsoever.

I've been doing some work with a lady's band. She can sometimes sing in tune,  
depending on how relaxed she is. We did a live gig that was not too bad.  
When I heard the CD the engineer made of it, it was astounding. It was in  
tune. All flaws had been removed. It was not her band. I feel like it's a  
lie. It's like pasting my face on Superman's body.

-steve

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Mon, 30 Apr 2007 23:19:08 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Turn mu loose.. in key. Now, there is a scary thought.

AA

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:4636670b\$1@linux...  
>  
> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
>>

>>They weren't the Every Brothers, but I don't remember Jan & Dean being all  
>>\_that\_bad. Didn't they do Dead Man's Curve too? I thought the harmonies  
>>on that were pretty good, though it's been years since I've heard it.  
>  
> I think they did do "Curve", but trust me on this... seek  
> out "Surf City" if you want to hear the human voice's best  
> impression of a car horn, ever.  
>  
> "TooOOo girls for evvvery BooOooOOyyyyy...."  
>  
> and on a few of the "Ooo-Ooo-EEEEe-ooo's", too.  
>  
> Believe me, if they had had Autotune then, they would've used it.  
>  
> :)

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 00:22:28 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:  
>  
>"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com.> wrote:  
>>  
>>"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:  
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>>>Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the  
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>>DC  
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>I'm with Don on this one. In fact, frightening as they may sometimes be,  
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>depending on how relaxed she is. We did a live gig that was not too bad.

>When I heard the CD the engineer made of it, it was astounding. It was in

>tune. All flaws had been removed. It was not her band. I feel like it's

a

>lie. It's like pasting my face on Superman's body.

I think there's a line - a fine one perhaps, but there's definitely a line. On one hand, if you're such a purist that any alteration or improvement to the performance is like pasting your face on Superman's body, then I would expect you to use an upright bass, not one of them newfangled plug-in-eel-lectric ones (after all, the P-bass was invented to improve intonation vs. fretless uprights, wannit?), and I would also expect that if you DO record something, it would only be stereo mic'ed, whether it's studio or live - I mean why would a purist want to put different things on different tracks in order to process even in the most limited means, like to adjust the relative volume level between each instrument... that's not how the performance happened, right?

Personally, I think the line can be crossed for any type of correction... someone explain to me the difference between Autotuning something and making a singer do seventy-five takes each of the same phrase they have trouble with in every chorus? The fact that "they" actually (finally) sang it? How many takes crosses the line? Anyone ever record a sax player trying to Coltrane his way through a 16-bar solo, only to have him do about 20 punches to get it right? Where does THAT form of correction cross the line?

Neil

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 00:36:52 GMT

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

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>correction... someone explain to me the difference between  
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>crosses the line? Anyone ever record a sax player trying to  
>Coltrane his way through a 16-bar solo, only to have him do  
>about 20 punches to get it right? Where does THAT form of  
>correction cross the line?

For me, it crosses the line at 10 takes. Everything after that is dookie...

DC

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Carl Amburn](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 00:57:57 GMT

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---

Are you serious DJ? When you get caught between the moon and New York City.....

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com> wrote in message news:46363b5f@linux...

>

> "Gary Flanigan" <gary\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov> wrote in message  
> news:46362f3a\$1@linux...

>>

>> I'm not sure if this predates the computer age, but I think the music

>> video

>> did a great deal to damage music. It did this in several ways. First,  
it

>> placed a fixed visual image in your brain associated with the song.

This

>> pretty much made it impossible to have the music only and fit it into  
some

>> context in your life. Second, it moved the focus to visual content

>> instead

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>> "Images upon the screen

>> finish our imagining

>> first we watched the singers dance

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> Chris was a good songwriter, had a decent voice and was a fairly  
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>  
> ;o)  
>  
>

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 01:30:26 GMT

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---

1: Drum machines, (of any flavour)

2: Synth Strings.

That's about the time I got out of serious studio music recording, (mid 80's)

Some of the romance and fascination has returned, mainly due to the same technology I guess, but you will never beat recording real instruments...string, horns, woods etc.

--

Martin Harrington

[www.lendaneer-sound.com](http://www.lendaneer-sound.com)

"Gary Flanigan" <[gary\\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:gary_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov)> wrote in message news:46362f3a\$1@linux...

>

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> first we watched the singers dance

> now we watch the dancers sing"

>

>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 01:33:48 GMT

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---

Yeah, that was a career-killer, wasn't it?

Multi-platinum first album, then go for the sappy movie theme to score some easy bucks & BAM! yer back playin' dive bars in Corpus Christi, baby lol

"Carl Amburn" <[carlamburn@hotmail.com](mailto:carlamburn@hotmail.com)> wrote:



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---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 02:36:03 GMT  
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I was listening to the radio one day when a pretty big hit tune ame on by a pretty famous female vocalist. I was driving my car and about every third or fourth phrase I'd hear a note and think "I would have tuned that...". It was "The Greatest Love" by Whitney Houston who is, IMHO, a great singer. It made me realize how Autotune (and quantizing and all of our other little studio tricks and tools) have changed the way we and everyone else hears music these days. Music doesn't have to be perfectly in tune or in time to be great. One of the important things that makes a Chicago blues shuffle sound different from a New Orleans second line shuffle or a big band swing shuffle is where the groove lays against "perfect" time. One of the most important things about blues in general is the tension created by "blue" notes.

Of course, we all know that. My big complaint about Autotune (and perhaps quantizing and Beat Detective which, thank God, we don't have in Paris!!!) is that now people expect to be able to march into the studio, deliver a mediocre performance, and leave with a "perfect", radio ready, finished product.

I've had people tell me that if I can't tune them they'll go elsewhere to work. And I'm talking about talented singers who are capable of getting it right! So if I don't Autotune I don't work. I don't mind tuning a note here and there to save a good singer from burning out during overdubs. I don't mind tweaking a harmony to make a chord sound sweet. And being able to make average music sound a lot better certainly brings me business. And God knows, I need the business. But it get's tiresome sometimes.

Not to mention the repetitive motion stress related problems I have now because I sit all day mousing and clicking to fix all this stuff!!! We're not recording engineers anymore - We're data entry clerks!

Gantt

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahthonin.com> wrote:

>>OK, I'm halfway with you.

>>

>>1. Autotune

>

>Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the other day as opposed to the car-horn tritones that supposedly passed for vocal harmonies on Jan & Dean's "Surf City" when it came on the Oldies station I was listening to.

>

>>2.) Quantizing

>

>If you had been working on the string arrangement I was fighting with over the past two weeks, you'd have BEGGED for the ability to quantize the backing track. I know I was.

>

>Neil

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Paul Braun](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 02:44:00 GMT

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On 1 May 2007 05:02:11 +1000, "Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>>2.) Quantizing

>

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>with over the past two weeks, you'd have BEGGED for the ability  
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>

And I think I know which track that was.....

pab

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 03:03:19 GMT

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IMHO, the Christopher Cross phenomena was one of those deals where songwriter meets the right producer. I had heard most of the songs on the first album, but not \*like that\*. O'Martian's production brought that material to life and made him a star. One of my clients here worked with him many years ago when he was at the top of his game in the 80's and has told some pretty great stories about how brilliant he thought O'Martian was/is.....not that he still might not be.....I just don't know. I don't hear much on the radio these days that I think he would be a party to, but maybe he is and I'm just not paying attention. I was glad to see Chris Geppert and his band make it big. They were good and they worked hard for a long time before they got their shot, though as usually happens, the band got short shrift and faded back into the fabric of the working musicians while the songwriter got the lions share of the recognition and \$\$\$\$. Hey.....he deserved it.....it's the biz and he wrote songs that resonated with the times (especially with the right producer). Good for him.

;o)

..

"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:463698fc\$1@linux...

>

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>

> Multi-platinum first album, then go for the sappy movie theme

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>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 03:05:02 GMT

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Paul Braun <cygnus\_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote:

>On 1 May 2007 05:02:11 +1000, "Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>>

>>>2.) Quantizing

>>

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>>with over the past two weeks, you'd have BEGGED for the ability

>>to quantize the backing track. I know I was.

>>

>And I think I know which track that was.....

>  
>pab

LOL! Hey now, I wasn't specifying anything!

:)

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 03:08:20 GMT  
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---

Yeah....when it gets to 10 takes, I start thinking about euthanasia

;o)

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote in message news:46368ba4\$1@linux...

>

> "Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

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>>crosses the line? Anyone ever record a sax player trying to  
>>Coltrane his way through a 16-bar solo, only to have him do  
>>about 20 punches to get it right? Where does THAT form of  
>>correction cross the line?

>

> For me, it crosses the line at 10 takes. Everything after that  
> is dookie...

>

> DC

>

---

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 03:30:15 GMT  
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---

You're right about that, proolly (good match between the artist  
& producer), but another thing that I think contributed is that  
I think that was really the "era of the soft singer".

Off the top of my head...

Boz Scaggs had a couple of non-"Lido Shuffle" sappy ballads that

hit in that era.

Steve Miller (who sang VERY soft for a rocker-ish kinda guy) still was getting airplay.

Lionel Richie all over the place during that time.

Leo Sayer had his last hit or two around then.

Bob Welch - sappy Sentimental ballad & "Ebony Eyes" were around then, IIRC.

Michael McFrickin'Donald singing on all the Doobie's mellow stuff (apart from on everyone who could get him to do backups).

Rupert Holmes (no, mutherfucker I DON'T like Pina Coladas!!!).

Pre-Thriller M.J. ("Rock with You" that was pretty soft-sung).

Kenny Rogers' "Lady" was a hit the same year.

Robbie Dupree "Why don't we Steal Away... Steeeeeal Aaaawaay... into the night" (c'mon, I know you wanna sing a long".

George Benson - Gimme the Night.

Kool & the Gang - "You know yer Too Hot... too hot, Lady".

Geez, I think I could list another hundred... all these were pretty soft-sung songs. Maybe I should rename it the "era of the sensitive male" lol

Was Alan Alda making movies during that time? ROFL

Neil

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote:

>IMHO, the Christopher Cross phenomena was one of those deals where  
>songwriter meets the right producer. I had heard most of the songs on the

>first album, but not \*like that\*. O'Martian's production brought that  
>material to life and made him a star. One of my clients here worked with  
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>many years ago when he was at the top of his game in the 80's and has told

>some pretty great stories about how brilliant he thought O'Martian  
>was/is.....not that he still might not be.....I just don't know. I don't

>hear much on the radio these days that I think he would be a party to, but

>maybe he is and I'm just not paying attention. I was glad to see Chris  
>Geppert and his band make it big. They were good and they worked hard for  
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>long time before they got their shot, though as usually happens, the band



>got short shrift and faded back into the fabric of the working musicians

>while the songwriter got the lions share of the recognition and \$\$\$.

>Hey.....he deserved it.....it's the biz and he wrote songs that

>resonated with the times (especially with the right producer). Good for him.

>

>:o)

>.

>

>"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:463698fc\$1@linux...

>>

>> Yeah, that was a career-killer, wasn't it?

>>

>> Multi-platinum first album, then go for the sappy movie theme

>> to score some easy bucks & BAM! yer back playin' dive bars

>> in Corpus Christi, baby lol

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> "Carl Amburn" <carlamburn@hotmail.com> wrote:

>>>Are you serious DJ? When you get caught between the moon and New York

>>>City.....

>>>

>>>

>>>"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com> wrote in message news:46363b5f@linux...

>>>>

>>>> "Gary Flanigan" <gary\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov> wrote in message

>>>> news:46362f3a\$1@linux...

>>>> >

>>>> > I'm not sure if this predates the computer age, but I think the music

>>>> > video

>>>> > did a great deal to damage music. It did this in several ways.

>>>> > First,

>>>> > it

>>>> > placed a fixed visual image in your brain associated with the song.

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>>>> > some

>>>> > context in your life. Second, it moved the focus to visual content

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>>>> > finish our imagining

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 03:48:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Deej, gimme a shout on my cell if you're still up.  
AA

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote in message news:4636aed1@linux...  
> IMHO, the Christopher Cross phenomena was one of those deals where  
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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 04:55:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hey Thad.. That's coming from a guy (Me) who is a master of Drum Machines and beat boxes.. hey killed "living" breathing Music..

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>  
>The 808 and MPC?!? You can't possibly be serious!  
>  
>TCB

>  
>"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

>>  
>>I totally disagree with all who said Auto-tune. It's effect (autotune)just  
>>like a phase-shifter, chorus, flanger. And, and can save a great vocal  
performance..

>>  
>>My vote would go to the beat boxes(R8, 808, MPC)

>>  
>>"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

>>>OK, I'm halfway with you.

>>>  
>>>1. Autotune  
>>>  
>>>2. Quantizing

>>>  
>>>Sarah

>>>  
>>>"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
>>>news:46326c60\$1@linux...  
>>>>

>>>> Not that I disagree... but my vote would be:  
>>>>  
>>>> 1. Autotune  
>>>>  
>>>> 2. Autotune  
>>>>  
>>>> Gantt  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
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>>>>>  
>>>>>that  
>>>>>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.  
>>>>> And  
>>>>>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch.  
>>>>>But  
>>>>>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things  
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>>>>>  
>>>>>So, on my upcoming Monkeys mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going  
>>>>>to  
>>>>>  
>>>>>make  
>>>>>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first.  
>>>>>I  
>>>>>solemnly  
>>>>>swear to the entire PARIS newsgroup.  
>>>>>

>>>>TCB  
>>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>  
>  
>

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---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 13:02:44 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Good Grief! I'd have dead bodies all over my studio if that were the case!

;-)

Rod

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote:

>

>Yeah....when it gets to 10 takes, I start thinking about eithanasia

>

>;o)

>

>"DC" <[dc@spammersinhell.com](mailto:dc@spammersinhell.com)> wrote in message [news:46368ba4\\$1@linux...](mailto:news:46368ba4$1@linux...)

>>

>> "Neil" <[OIUOIU@OIU.com](mailto:OIUOIU@OIU.com)> wrote:

>>

>>>Personally, I think the line an be crossed for any type of  
>>>correction... someone explain to me the difference between  
>>>Autotuning something and making a singer do seventy-five takes  
>>>each of the same phrase they have trouble with in every chorus?  
>>>The fact that "they" actually (finally) sang it? How many takes  
>>>crosses the line? Anyone ever record a sax player trying to  
>>>Coltrane his way through a 16-bar solo, only to have him do  
>>>about 20 punches to get it right? Where does THAT form of  
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>>

>> For me, it crosses the line at 10 takes. Everything after that  
>> is dookie...

>>

>> DC

>>

>

>

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Nil](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 13:06:33 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---



"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:  
>Imagine the Rolling Stones autotuned and quantized. Eeeyooo. It hurts  
just  
>thinking about it.

I can imagine it.. it'd be called: "The Black Crowes"

:D

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 13:09:37 GMT  
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---

Ha ha, yes, I'm a confused one, and almost always would like a little more  
cowbell.

Chris Ludwig <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote:  
>How about a a need more cowbell Zionist?  
>  
>  
>  
>TCB wrote:  
>  
>>  
>> However, I the official tempo Nazi in the band. And the designated guitar  
>> volume Nazi, anti-compression Nazi, less reverb Nazi, and a couple of  
other  
>> ones that don't come immediately to mind.  
>>  
>> TCB  
>>  
>> "Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:  
>>> "Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:  
>>>> OK, I'm halfway with you.  
>>>>  
>>>> 1. Autotune  
>>> Hey, I'd have rather heard some properly-applied Autotune the  
>>> other day as opposed to the car-horn tritones that supposedly  
>>> passed for vocal harmonies on Jan & Dean's "Surf City" when it  
>>> came on the Oldies station I was listening to.  
>>>  
>>>> 2.) Quantizing  
>>> If you had been working on the string arrangement I was fighting  
>>> with over the past two weeks, you'd have BEGGED for the ability  
>>> to quantize the backing track. I know I was.  
>>>  
>>> Neil

>>  
>  
>--  
>Chris Ludwig  
>  
>ADK Pro Audio  
>(859) 635-5762  
>www.adkproaudio.com  
>chrisl@adkproaudio.com

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 14:16:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Live drummers playing to a click took care of that long before the 808 was a gleam in Roland's eye.

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>>>>>>>I



...  
"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:463756d4\$1@linux...  
>  
> I guess you're of the Eric Johnson school, then?  
>  
> I've done \_way\_ more than ten takes of guitar parts before getting the one  
> I like. Usually I could comp a little but I still like the idea of playing  
> it really right, and if that takes 20 takes or more then so be it.  
>  
> TCB  
>

Moi???.personally, I'm so sloppy right now that 20 takes would be just for starters.....but its my studio so I can waste as much time in there screwing up as I want by golly. However, I am much less tolerant of others unless every take is usable, they've got the budget and we're recording \*choices\* rather than clams.....and this is mostly because when this starts happening, the client I get in here that is that poorly rehearsed/skilled will inevitably be unhappy with the amount of his own money he is spending and/or I will want to end up polishing this turdfor more hours than he has the money to pay, just because I don't like to see crap emanate from these environs.

;o)

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Carl Amburn](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 18:29:48 GMT  
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---

Synchronicity - so today as I go out to lunch and stand in line to order..... and I rarely go out to lunch - what song comes on the friggin' restuarant radio???

When you get caught between.....

Holy Cow,  
-Carl

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message news:4636aed1@linux...  
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> >>the  
> >>> owner/manager of Steamboat 1874 and we used to hang with these guys a  
> > bit.  
> >>> Chris was a good songwriter, had a decent voice and was a fairly  
> >>proficient  
> >>> guitar player. The band played lots of his original songs at the club  
> >>gigs.  
> >>> He ended getting picked up by a label (I forget which one now) and the  
> >>band  
> >>> was flown out of LA and Michael O'Martian produced their first (and  
> >>> only)  
> >>> album. Lots of major session musicians played on the album and though  
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> >>> band members were good players and could hold their own, chris was  
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> > no  
> >>> match for guys like Larry Carlton (who played lead on the album). they  
> > got  
> >>> major airplay with songs like Ride Like the Wind and Sailing. There  
were  
> >>> lots of other good songs on the album too...not much filler at all.  
When  
> >>> they started touring to promote the album, MTV was just getting  
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> >>and

> >>> they did a video. Chris looked a bit like the Pillsbury Doughboy.  
Chris'  
> >>> lack of photogeniety, along with the fact that they didn't bring along  
> > the  
> >>> studio guitar slingers to flesh out the musical prowess and give the  
> >>> audiences a semblance of the signature chops on a lot of the album  
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> >>> plus pretty much insured that a second album never  
> >>> happened.....but  
> >>he  
> >>> did get his 15 minutes and his songs still get airplay on the oldies  
> >>> stations(mailbox money). Had he looked like David Lee Roth (I think he  
> >>could  
> >>> have even developed a "Meatloaf" kinda \*ugly rocker\* persona if he had  
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> >>> the type to get into wrteched excess.....he was a family man though)  
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> >>of  
> >>> good songs in the can back then.  
> >>>  
> >>> ;o)  
> >>>  
> >>>  
> >>>  
> >>  
> >>  
> >  
>  
>

---

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 18:47:54 GMT  
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---

heheh!!!.....oooooooooooooooooooo

;o)

"Carl Amburn" <carlamburn@hotNOSPAMmail.com> wrote in message  
news:463787f3\$1@linux...

> Synchronicity - so today as I go out to lunch and stand in line to  
> order..... and I rarely go out to lunch - what song comes on the friggin'  
> restuarant radio???  
>  
> When you get caught between.....  
>



> Holy Cow,  
> -Carl  
>  
> "DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message news:4636aed1@linux...  
>> IMHO, the Christopher Cross phenomena was one of those deals where  
>> songwriter meets the right producer. I had heard most of the songs on the  
>> first album, but not \*like that\*. O'Martian's production brought that  
>> material to life and made him a star. One of my clients here worked with  
> him  
>> many years ago when he was at the top of his game in the 80's and has  
>> told  
>> some pretty great stories about how brilliant he thought OMartian  
>> was/is.....not that he still might not be.....I just don't know. I  
> don't  
>> hear much on the radio these days that I think he would be a party to,  
>> but  
>> maybe he is and I'm just not paying attention. I was glad to see Chris  
>> Geppert and his band make it big. They were good and they worked hard for  
> a  
>> long time before they got their shot, though as usually happens, the band  
>> got short shrift and faded back into the fabric of the working musicians  
>> while the songwriter got the lions share of the recognition and \$\$\$.  
>> Hey.....he deserved it.....it's the biz and he wrote songs that  
>> resonated with the times (especially with the right producer). Good for  
> him.  
>>  
>> ;o)  
>> .  
>>  
>> "Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:463698fc\$1@linux...  
>> >  
>> > Yeah, that was a career-killer,wasn't it?  
>> >  
>> > Multi-platinum first album, then go for the sappy movie theme  
>> > to score some easy bucks & BAM! yer back playin' dive bars  
>> > in Corpus Christi, baby lol  
>> >  
>> >  
>> >  
>> >  
>> > "Carl Amburn" <carlamburn@hotmail.com> wrote:  
>> >>Are you serious DJ? When you get caught between the moon and New York  
>> >>City.....  
>> >>  
>> >>  
>> >>"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message news:46363b5f@linux...  
>> >>>  
>> >>> "Gary Flanigan" <gary\_flanigan@ce9.uscourts.gov> wrote in message

>> >>> news:46362f3a\$1@linux...  
>> >>> >  
>> >>> > I'm not sure if this predates the computer age, but I think the  
> music  
>> >>> > video  
>> >>> > did a great deal to damage music. It did this in several ways.  
>> >>> > First,  
>> >>it  
>> >>> > placed a fixed visual image in your brain associated with the song.  
>> >>This  
>> >>> > pretty much made it impossible to have the music only and fit it  
> into  
>> >>some  
>> >>> > context in your life. Second, it moved the focus to visual content  
>> >>> > instead  
>> >>> > of aural content. To quote one of my older songs:  
>> >>> >  
>> >>> > "Images upon the screen  
>> >>> > finish our imagining  
>> >>> > first we watched the singers dance  
>> >>> > now we watch the dancers sing"  
>> >>> >  
>> >>> >  
>> >>>  
>> >>> Back in the late 70's an Austin musician named Chris Geppert was  
> heading  
>> >>up  
>> >>> a cover band by the name of Christopher Cross. They used to play lots  
>> > of  
>> >>> private parties and played a lot of gigs at local clubs there, most  
>> >>> often  
>> >>> at a nightclub called Steamboat 1874 and it's sister club downtown  
>> >>> called  
>> >>> Steamboat Springs. One of my good friends, a guy named Kerry Flynn,  
> was  
>> >>the  
>> >>> owner/manager of Steamboat 1874 and we used to hang with these guys a  
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>> >>>  
>> >>  
>> >>  
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>>  
>

>

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 18:52:59 GMT

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---

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>

>I guess you're of the Eric Johnson school, then?

>

>I've done \_way\_ more than ten takes of guitar parts before getting the one

>I like. Usually I could comp a little but I still like the idea of playing

>it really right, and if that takes 20 takes or more then so be it.

It's not a rule or anything, I just have found that if I can't get it in 10 takes, I usually will not get it in 95 either.

For me, if I am ready, it's take 2-4 that is the good one. I also find that if I comp, it is never as alive as if it would be if my playing was really together.

I remade an old song recently, and when I came to do the solo, I knew it was not there. I finally got it technically right, and then I went back and listened to the original. Oh hey.. the ten-years-younger version of me just kicked-my-ass all over the control room... Depressing.

There is an effortless strength and off-the-cuff sort of musicality to REALLY being in good shape playing wise... You cannot get that from comping. I remember making the original track... Alone, in the control room, running multi-track reel-to-reel, running the mixer, trying not to watch the counter and meters while playing... I just turned around, looked at the wall, and nailed it on take 2. Totally improvised and perfect.

I hated that young, arrogant weenie!!! How dare he play like that?

Now everyone knows that most clients don't walk in that ready to nail it, so I am not going to criticize anyone, but many clients DO walk in expecting a world-beater of a recording.

The gap between those two truths is where we audio people live isn't it?

DC

btw, I practiced that damn song for months, and can now play it right again, and I learned a lot about staying in shape, both musically and physically.

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 18:54:10 GMT  
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---

"Neil" <IUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>I can imagine it.. it'd be called: "The Black Crowes"  
>  
>:D

BWAH HAH HAH... good one!

DC

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 19:59:48 GMT  
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It's a tradeoff for sure. I've been appalled at how far my chops have gone to hell. I've taken to playing arps and scales while watching the NBA playoffs to get my fingers back working with each other. There isn't a lot to executing power pop parts and solos correctly but I need to get my fingers in better shape.

The best term I've ever come up with for what it's like to really have the chops together (and this is me, not Joe Pass or Hendrix) is that 'the string feels bigger.' Like I can feel more of it with my fingers and there's more space between the frets and strings. I can feel the scrape on the fret when I bend and hear that the vibrato is centered around the fundamental and so on. Not there now.

Then again, ten years ago when I quit practicing every day it's because I was sick of playing guitar and wanted to make a trip hop record. I didn't know anything about editing or tracking or synths or mixing or compression (beyond my MXR Dynacomp) and so forth. So I'd have missed out on a lot had I decided the be all end all of my musical life was being able to sight read Charlie Christian solos and improvise complex bass lines and chord shapes around a melody.

TCB

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

>

>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>>

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>>

>>I've done \_way\_ more than ten takes of guitar parts before getting the one

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>ten-years-younger version of me just kicked-my-ass all over

>the control room... Depressing.

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>to REALLY being in good shape playing wise... You cannot get

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>nailed it on take 2. Totally improvised and perfect.

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>DO walk in expecting a world-beater of a recording.

>

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>live isn't it?

>

>DC

>

>btw, I practiced that damn song for months, and can now play

>it right again, and I learned a lot about staying in shape, both  
>musically and physically.

---

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 20:08:14 GMT

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---

i Disagree my friend. A good drummer can "liven" up a click tracked song..  
Just his/her nuances and playing in-between the clicks on-time, can humanize  
a stale robotic track..

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>

>Live drummers playing to a click took care of that long before the 808 was  
>a gleam in Roland's eye.

>

>"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

>>

>>Hey Thad.. That's coming from a guy (Me) who is a master of Drum Machines  
>>and beat boxes.. hey killed "living" breathing Music..

>>

>>

>>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>The 808 and MPC?!? You can't possibly be serious!

>>>

>>>TCB

>>>

>>>"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

>>>>

>>>>I totally disagree with all who said Auto-tune. It's effect (autotune)just  
>>>>like a phase-shifter, chorus, flanger. And, and can save a great vocal  
>>performance..

>>>>

>>>>My vote would go to the beat boxes(R8, 808, MPC)

>>>>

>>>>"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

>>>>>OK, I'm halfway with you.

>>>>>

>>>>>1. Autotune

>>>>>

>>>>>2. Quantizing

>>>>>

>>>>>Sarah

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message

>>>>>news:46326c60\$1 @linux...  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Not that I disagree... but my vote would be:  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 1. Autotune  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 2. Autotune  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Gantt  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:  
>>>>>  
>>>>>>1. The UAD LA-2A emulation, and all of the other various emulations  
>>of  
>>>>  
>>>>>>that  
>>>>>>emulation. Opto compressors are great when used in the right situation.  
>>>>> And  
>>>>>>of course they're easy to use, there's two knobs and a bypass switch.  
>>>>But  
>>>>>>it's precisely the simplicity that makes people slap the damn things  
>>>on  
>>>>> everything.  
>>>>>>And opto compressors don't belong on everything, they're way too fast  
>>>>for  
>>>>>>many of the places where people put them. Like electric guitars, which  
>>>>  
>>>>>>shouldn't  
>>>>>>really need compression anyway. I hear mixes from my friends and the  
>>>  
>>>>>>percussive  
>>>>>>attack of the notes are just gone. It's mush. And nine times out of  
>>ten  
>>>>> I  
>>>>>>say, 'Hey, you're using an LA-2A on the guitars aren't you?' and then  
>>>>they  
>>>>>>think I'm some golden ears genius. No, your guitars sound like shit.  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>>2. Multiband compressors. I don't think I need to explain this.  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>>So, on my upcoming Monkeys mixing any time I use an LA-2A I'm going  
>>to  
>>>>  
>>>>>>make  
>>>>>>sure I justify it in my head, and try a different comp/limiter first.  
>>>>I  
>>>>>> solemnly





Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [TCB](#) on Tue, 01 May 2007 22:02:55 GMT

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---

I actually like machines sounding like machines (Kraftwerk, ENB, Sleng Teng riddim) and humans sounding human (Stevie Wonder, Meters) but that 'I can tell the drummer is playing to a click' sound is torture to me. Much harder on my brain than the 'I can hear this was autotuned sound.' But groove matters more to me than pitch, so there you go.

TCB

"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

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>i Disagree my friend. A good drummer can "liven" up a click tracked song..

>Just his/her nuances and playing in-between the clicks on-time, can humanize

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then  
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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 02 May 2007 03:09:50 GMT

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---

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

>We always think the Hendrix or

>Vai stuff is the hardest, but it ain't necessarily so.

I can never (COULD never, in fact, even when I was just starting out) understand why people think Hendrix stuff is hard to play - it's not, really... he wasn't a technician, by any stretch... what he was was a great sonic innovator, though, that's for sure.

Vai, OTOH - now there's a technician!

Neil

---

Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 02 May 2007 04:07:11 GMT

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1.) Steve Jobs

2.) Steve Jobs

Here's why: 1.) Apple computers where the ones that a small company decided were the best platform for a product called Session8 - first marketed to radio stations for commercial production, mainly ("Come on, you can get rid of that Otari 5050!!!"), but eventually it caught on & became..... YOU GOT IT! Pro-Tools! Arguably the end of music as we knew it.

2) The iPod/iTunes combo... arguably the end of profitable music as we knew it.

Discuss.

(anyone but McCloskey may participate in this portion of thread LOL!)

Neil

BTW, just for laughs, here's a sales blurb from 1996:  
Digi's new Pro Tools Project is a digital audio workstation designed to provide Pro Tools functionality at a truly affordable price. The Pro Tools Project Core System includes

Pro Tools 3.2 software bundled with the Session 8 Mac audio card (now renamed the Pro Tools Project Audio Card). Your I/O choices include the 882 I/O and 882 Studio I/O. Pro Tools Project is a complete digital workstation that provides eight tracks of recording, plus many sophisticated editing and mixing tools and will be available in early 1996 at the surprising list price of just \$2495.

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 02 May 2007 05:50:33 GMT

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I had/have Session8. It was more stable than PT, LOL.... I still have (and occasionally fire up for giggles on an old PII400 Asus mobo) my AudioMedia III card. I dunno if I agree it was the end of things as we know them. I did local mastering (can you say sound forge II?) through that card and fixed many a vocal comp through it to Adats. I think I paid like \$1300 for it and Sound Forge. Reveal early adopter, had to revision the card so it worked with PT when that became available, LOL. It was really quite solid a rig, and with a MQX-32 ISA card strapped on it time lock was tight tight tight. I wanna say I started using it on a P 200 mmx?

AA

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:46380e6f\$1@linux...

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>  
> 2.) Steve Jobs  
>  
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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Wed, 02 May 2007 05:56:21 GMT

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Hey Neil, you know I respect you a lot, but I have to disagree with you regarding Session 8.  
I had it on Windows, (I still have it taking up rack space in my studio, and I think it was originally a PC product) in 1994, (I think).  
I don't think a Mac version came out for quite some time after .

--

Martin Harrington

[www.lendaneer-sound.com](http://www.lendaneer-sound.com)

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:46380e6f\$1@linux...

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>  
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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Wed, 02 May 2007 13:24:35 GMT

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---

"Martin Harrington" <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote:

>Hey Neil, you know I respect you a lot, but I have to disagree with you

>regarding Session 8.

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What? I thought that was always a Mac-first product! The sales blurb I pasted in on my prior post was actually from '95, I think, because it says that the new PT "project card" (formerly Session8 \*\*\*Mac\*\*\* card) bundle would be out in early '96, so are you sure you just didn't encounter it on PC first? I could be wrong, tho.

Damn, and here I was thinking I could pin the whole mess of the music business, from recording to retailing, on Steve Jobs.

:)

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 01:44:16 GMT

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Pretty sure it was PC first, I remember when the Mac software come out , it had some features that the PC version didn't have, like being able to



control the SMPTE Slave Driver.

--

Martin Harrington

www.lendaneer-sound.com

"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:46389113\$1@linux...

>

> "Martin Harrington" <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote:

>> Hey Neil, you know I respect you a lot, but I have to disagree with you

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>> regarding Session 8.

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> :)

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age

Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 11:11:46 GMT

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I got mine for PC at a cost of \$3500 in 1994. Worked flawlessly. When I ditched it in 1997, sold it for \$200 and bought paris sight unseen, then loaded up paris 1.0 I had one of the biggest sinking feelings of my life

:-)

Chuck

"Martin Harrington" <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote:

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Subject: Re: The two worst things to happen to music in the computer age  
Posted by [DC](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 18:50:12 GMT  
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"chuck duffy" <c@c.com> wrote:  
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> loaded up paris 1.0 I had one of the biggest sinking feelings of my life  
> :-)  
>  
> Chuck

Yeah and THEN you started a Paris NG...

And that sinking feeling got much worse!

heh heh...

DC

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