
Subject: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 19:29:59 GMT
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I'm doing a mix here. We've got a lot of acoustic instruments goin on this mix and the client/producer/songwriter/arranger is sitting in on the mix making decisions as to which instruments he wants up in the holes in the mix, since we have many options. The players on this project are really good and it's sorta' agonizing for him to sacrifice hearing one part when another equally good riff is being played on the same timeline and a decision has to be made as to one or the other. Well, this is all part of the game and just takes time. What's making me nuts is that the client really respects these players. These guys, as good as they are, occasionally had a clam or two as far as the number of notes that may have been played over a certain passage. He doesn't want to change this stuff out of *respect* for the performance. It just doesn't work in some cases and sounds like a trainwreck in others. I can easily fix it in the editor, but he's uncomfortable with this. This mix isn't going to work with certain of these unedited passages.....it just won't.....trust me. My problem is, and this is why I could never last long in a band, is that I *know* what needs to be done and everyone else is wrong.....am I right?

;o)

Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 19:43:43 GMT
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Deej,

Rule #1: You are always right.

Even when you're wrong! ;>)

The truth is, if you were hired to mix the project with the direction of the producer, then he's got the final say. It's really hard to "detach" your self from these kind's of things, but it has to be done. All you can do is tactfully make observations or suggestions. After that, it's out of your hands. If you are really attached to this project, make your own mix after the producer leaves and have it handy to show the group/producer if they decide changes need to be made.

Tony

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
[news:43c2ba35\\$1@linux...](mailto:news:43c2ba35$1@linux...)

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!

Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 20:07:41 GMT

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My \$.02... why bother using good players if you aren't going to let their best shine through? Would he leave an out of tune guitar in the mix?... probably not.

David.

DJ wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!

Posted by [Mark McDermott](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 20:43:48 GMT

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Hey Deej,

Sounds like you could use those Karass Institute negotiation tapes...

How about "Even though we need to respect the players the song is more important."
Some of the best players have ended up on the cutting room floor!

Good luck!

Mark

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 20:54:49 GMT
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Deej, He needs to remember, "LESS IS MORE", be ruthless.
Sounds like the stuff is not arranged too well if there are no holes to
breath anywhere.
BTW, yes, you're right....
--
Martin Harrington
www.lendaneer-sound.com

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
[news:43c2ba35\\$1@linux...](mailto:news:43c2ba35$1@linux...)
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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 20:57:43 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I see everyone's point here. I'm making an alternative mix (PITA, but necessary in this case) this project is going to be marketed at his venue on BroadwayNYC and it's going to get a lot of exposure elsewhere as well.....plus there's going to be a big CD release party with a lot of critical ears present....and my name will be all over this as the recording/mix and most likely the mastering engineer as well (I'm really trying to talk him out of that one but his budget is limited at this point)

Thanks for the feedback.

;o)

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
news:43c2ba35\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!

Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 22:18:32 GMT

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

> I've been right for a long time, it's just other people are wrong so often

> that they can't see it. ;o)

>

I can soooooo relate to this.

;O)

"Kim" <hiddenounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:43c2ddab\$1@linux...

>

> "DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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> Cheers,

> Kim.

Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [DC](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 22:20:21 GMT
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Sooo, how many producers does it take to change a light bulb?

I dunno... waddya YOU think?

heh heh

Listen, *everyone* thinks they know how something should be mixed, just like everyone knows how something should be arranged and could have done it better if you had just let them.

But you have to trust your instincts. We have all left "little" clams in, and lived to regret it haven't we? Some clams work, and some don't. You clearly can tell that these won't.

I would do a mix with Mr. Producer absent and then show it to him.

This is how Wally Traugott mastered "Dark Side of the Moon". He got the tape via courier, but the producer had not arrived yet from England (I think the producer was Alan Parsons, but don't quote me) so Wally just did it the way he wanted to with no one else in the room.

Well, they loved it so much they wouldn't let him change a thing and this is the record we all know and love.

The question is whether your producer is man enough to admit it if you nail it. It takes a big heart and small ego to admit that it came out perfectly without his involvement, but if he loves the music more than his ego, he can do so.

Whose vision is the right one is a huge subject that deserves a book written on it. Many different visions can produce good results, but only one is likely to lift the track to real success. Just like a good audio engineer knows what a lot of people will call "good sound" a good producer will understand which parts elevate the song and which parts make it boring. For instance, the famous Clapton "Crossroads" solo was never played as such by Eric. It was edited (by Tom Dowd) together from a much longer jam. To this day Eric has to hear "hey man! that was the definitive guitar solo of your career!! Eric hates to hear that, as you can imagine. Sure worked though, didn't it?

Tom Dowd had great ears and vision to match.

The worst situation of all is when someone simply does not have what it takes to make these decisions, but *needs* to anyway for self-validation or other such bullsh*t.

Also, wometimes we resort to standard arrangements,sounds and techniques like it has always been done before, when what the tune needed was doing it "wrong" in a creative way. John Lennon walks in the control room and plugs his guitar into the board. Overdrives the desk like crazy. The engineers are going oh NO!! You can't do that!! But he insisted, and so we have "Revolution".

Vision. There is no substitute. If you know how something should be, you should find a way to make it that way if you can.

Of course, don't punch out the producer... Well if you do, be sure to post pictures of it...

heh

DC

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Kim](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 23:03:23 GMT
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"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
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I've been right for a long time, it's just other people are wrong so often
that they can't see it. ;o)

Cheers,
Kim.

Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Kim](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 23:04:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Tony Benson" <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:
>make your own mix after
>the producer leaves and have it handy

That's the idea! :o)

Subject: Re: Am I nuts!!!! - a suggestion
Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 23:45:48 GMT
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Throw the puppy up in mono and see where everything sits...then EQ / process
to get everything in it's place then put it back in stereo and see what
happens...may help.

May not

Don

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
news:43c2ba35\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [excelav](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 03:35:33 GMT
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A lot could be said here.

I think you should talk him in to recutting the necessary parts, kind of
a, A mix/cut, B mix/cut. Tell him this wouldn't be redoing everything, this
would be giving him more options to choose from. Offer to do this for free,
tell him you just want the project to be all that it can be. Tell him you
know your stuff, and ask him to trust you. Tell him you'd feel much better

about the project this way. This would give him more choices, plus he would have the final say anyways. Tell him that this would be a chance for you to really show him what you can do (What you can really do for him!). If he doesn't like it he won't have to use it, but you think more than likely he would use at least some of the recuts.

If he goes for it, do your own great mix and present it to him. Then tell him that if he uses it you wouldn't want any extra credits. Hopefully he will hear/see the light.

I know you love your work, so doing extra work for free won't kill you, putting out a piece of crap with your name on it would.

Remember, it never goes quite the way you would like it to in life.

Good luck!

James

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Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 05:24:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

He just left. I put the mix up that I did this afternoon. It differs quite a bit from the one we did last night. I carved out the sloppy clams and retuned the notes that were butting heads that I thought would work for what we were trying to achieve. I also did some comping of this and that and dropped it on the 4 timeline where needed. I took him on a tour of both mixes and showed him exactly what I did and why.

He loved it. We just finished remixing the song with a few more decisions he made based on my basic groundwork. I think they were good decisions. His last words before leaving tonight were "OK man, you just go ahead and get it done and call me when you feel like we're close. I trust your judgment."

Life is good.

:o)

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:43c31d75\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [DC](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 06:34:59 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Yes! Good result. Sounds like a good guy.

DC

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 06:41:56 GMT
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Yes!

Tony

On 1/9/06 11:24 PM, in article 43c34572@linux, "DJ"
<animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

> He just left. I put the mix up that I did this afternoon. It differs quite a
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>> will hear/see the light.
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>> I know you love your work, so doing extra work for free won't kill you,
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>> out a piece of crap with your name on it would.
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>> Remember, it never goes quite the way you would like it to in life.
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>> Good luck!
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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Kim](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 08:22:01 GMT
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WOOHOO!!!
[chanted like ricky lake]
Go D.J... Go D.J... Go D.J... Go D.J...

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [rick](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 11:04:19 GMT
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these boots were made for talkin'

On Mon, 9 Jan 2006 22:24:02 -0700, "DJ"
<animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: This is about to make me nuts!!!!
Posted by [Mark McDermott](#) on Tue, 10 Jan 2006 18:42:08 GMT
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Deej,

We always knew you were a "take charge" kind-a guy!

Now, breath deep. O-H-M O-H-M O-H-M O-H-M

(Repeat until necessary or until next paying client shows up!)

Mark

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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