
Subject: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 16:15:36 GMT

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I listen to contemporary CD's - jazz, rock, R&B, C&W, you name it - and hear beautiful, bright snare drums that make my RTA bounce around in the 16K - 20K range. I can't make that happen without a ton of EQ. I usually use a Crown CM-200 (electret condenser, kinda like an SM-57, but flatter and cleaner to my ear) on snare, but I've tried a Neumann KM-84 and I still need to crank the EQ to get that sound. Is that just what it takes? Are there snare drums that naturally generate higher harmonics than most? Is it something to do w/ the drum head? I've had the privilege of recording some pretty great drummers, but I still need to reach for the EQ to get THAT snare sound!

Any thoughts?

Thanks, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Gantt

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 16:28:13 GMT

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Are we talking a snare with snap to it?

Generally a 5" deep metal snare drum...a ludwig black beauty comes to mind, tuned fairly high on top and bottom with snares solidly on the reso head but not choking the sound should get you in the ballpark

Piccato snare drums 4" or less deep are good for that too but they tend to sound a little less resonant ie: choked to my ear, depending on the snare of course.

Micing from the underside will give you ton's of top end with pretty well any snare, just be aware of phase issues with top and bottom mics

Don

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttman@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:45968298\$1@linux...

>

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> Thanks, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
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> Gantt

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 16:31:56 GMT
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You're probably listening to an aural exciter of some kind I'd bet, perhaps
even a verb high pass tuned to those freq's.

AA

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:45968298\$1@linux...

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> Gantt

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 17:25:50 GMT
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My main snare is a 5" chrome Tama. I have had a bottom mic, but I still need the EQ to get that brightness I'm talking about. It's not so much 'snap' (I can get plenty of that!) as presence that I'm looking for.

gantt

"Don Nafe" <dnafe@magma.ca> wrote:

>Are we talking a snare with snap to it?

>

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>tuned fairly high on top and bottom with snares solidly on the reso head
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>news:45968298\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 17:25:59 GMT
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16k & up? There's no snare I've ever heard that has much of anything in it's fundamental frequencies up in that range, so no matter what mic you use you're not going to have very much but overtones up there for a snare, IMO. Brass ones usually have a bit more "body tone" in a wider (to include "higher") register, but it's still not way up there where you're talking about; so without hearing specific cuts that you're referring to, I'd have to say yeah, it's most likely just a matter of EQ.

But I have a couple other questions:

a.) You mention the mic you usually use, but what preamp do you usually use for Snare? I wonder if you're hearing something like that API "crack" on these cuts (or maybe similar fast preamps that may have been used)? If you're using something slower/softer, it ain't gonna happen - at least not exactly like what you're looking for, I don't believe.

b.) Are you sure you're hearing the direct snare hit itself, or are you hearing maybe some room in the overheads or possibly some reverb that the higher freqs are coming from? Try isolating the first 1/4 to third of a second of the snare hit & see if your RTA still kisses those same frequencies. Then isolate the next half-second or so, then the next... IOW, see where those frequencies start coming into play on the timeline & that'll tell you a lot. Considering that there's a good chance that a lot of the snares you're talking about were tracked with a '57 - a mic which starts rolling off like crazy even before it gets to the 16k you're talking about - I think I'm leaning towards this possibility.

c.) Do you normally mic the bottom head too? I really hate

this, myself, but sometimes you can get a bit more "air" out of it with the snares sizzling around right in the face of the bottom mic. Problem then becomes finding a balance between that effect and the inevitable "pfft" that results from this top/bottom micing combination... throw Fleetwood Mac's "Rhiannon" on your 8-Track for what I find to be an extreme "pfftexample" of that sound. URRGH!

d.) Is is possibly more of a compression thing than an EQ thing that you're hearing? You think it might be that VCA "splat" from certain types of compressors (SSL's are great for this) flattening out the body tone quite a bit? If that's it - or part of it - dbx Comps are good at this, too... even the cheapies.

I assume you've tried all the usual stuff like trying different mic positions, or even different mics & pres?

Dunno... just having my morning coffee & throwing stuff out there.

Neil

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

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>Gantt

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 17:26:42 GMT
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Or maybe one of those "Transient designer" boxes. Anyone ever use them?

gantt

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>You're probably listening to an aural exciter of some kind I'd bet, perhaps

>even a verb high pass tuned to those freq's.

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

>news:45968298\$1@linux...

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>

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [John Macy](#) on Sat, 30 Dec 2006 18:43:18 GMT
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The Transient Designer will not really add any high end, though you can stretch

out the sound to hear more of what is there.

Personally, there is always, always, always a Distressor and a Transient Designer on my snare track....:) I have a 4 channel TD and would like a second--very useful tool...

I do cut sometimes with a 57 and a KM84 taped together and print on separate tracks--very seldom use under snare mics...

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

>

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>anything in it's fundamental frequencies up in that range, so
>no matter what mic you use you're not going to have very much
>but overtones up there for a snare, IMO. Brass ones usually
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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Sun, 31 Dec 2006 00:10:22 GMT
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That's what I would've bet too.

--

Martin Harrington
www.lendaneer-sound.com

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote in message
news:459691c4\$1@linux...

> You're probably listening to an aural exciter of some kind I'd bet,
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> news:45968298\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 00:04:01 GMT
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Another thing that might be... leakage from a gate. This could be in the
form of cymbal bleed into the snare (furthered by hitting a verb when it
opens) or possibly just so much compression that it's causing a hiss when

the snare gate opens?

W/O hearing what you're hearing Gantt, I'd only be able to guess.

AA

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:45984b03\$1@linux...

>

> I thought about this & said "yeah, perhaps they're right"; then
> it occurred to me - he's hearing this on LOTS of different
> stuff, he's saying... the chances of ALL those different tracks
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> I'm still leaning towards a room or reverb thing.

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> Gantt-Man... you figure out this snare thing yet? I'm curious.

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> Neil

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>

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

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>>www.lendanear-sound.com

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>>news:459691c4\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Neil](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 00:42:59 GMT
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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [DJ](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 05:44:46 GMT

I use an SPL TD, though not during tracking. It's great for mixes though. Another secret weapon is the UAD-1 Neve 33609. this thing provides some serious snare mojo.

Deej

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:45969342\$1@linux...

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> Or maybe one of those "Transient desgner" boxes. Anyone ever use them?

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 07:14:48 GMT
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The Transient Designer intrigues me. I might have to check one out. And I need to figure out a way to use the Neve EQ w/ Paris. As soon as my new UAD-1 card comes (and assuming that there doesn't turn out to be anything wrong w/ one of my old ones!) I'm planning to install one in my old G4 to try using the newer UAD-1 FX in Digital Performer. I'll have to shift the tracks an extra 13 ms to compensate for the trip in and out of DP, but it might work!

Thanks, and Happy New Year!

Gantt

"DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 10:39:23 GMT
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Gantt,
Waves have a similar SPL plugin called "Trans-X" <http://www.waves.com/content.asp?id=119>

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 16:12:36 GMT
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Aargh! Another plugin I can't use in Paris! Which bundle does it come in?

Thanks,

Gantt

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

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [Nil](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 16:19:01 GMT

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Voxengo also has their Transmodder... here's a link to the demo:

http://www.voxengo.com/files/VoxengoTransmodder_15_WinVST_setup.exe

BY THE WAY, GUYS - Voxengo has a sale going on on about a half-dozen of their plugs right now... 20% discount.

Neil

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 16:50:10 GMT

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Wow! I have the Transform bundle! I'll try sending a snare track over to Digital Performer and see what it does...

Gantt

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

>

>Aargh! Another plugin I can't use in Paris! Which bundle does it come in?

>

>Thanks,

>

>Gantt

>

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

>>

>>Gantt,

>>Waves have a similar SPL plugin called "Trans-X" <http://www.waves.com/content.asp?id=119>

>

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [lamont\[5\]](#) on Mon, 01 Jan 2007 19:57:03 GMT

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Gantt, you can use the waves in paris..

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

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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Tue, 02 Jan 2007 00:40:51 GMT

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Alas, not in Mac OS 9...

Gantt

"lamont" <jjd@ameritech.net> wrote:

>

>Gantt, you can use the waves in paris..

>

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

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>>

>

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?

Posted by [LaMont](#) on Tue, 02 Jan 2007 04:29:42 GMT

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Gantt, you need to PC :)

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

>

>Alas, not in Mac OS 9...

>

>Gantt

>

>"lamont" <jjd@ameritech.net> wrote:

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>>

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>>>

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>>>
>>
>

Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Tue, 02 Jan 2007 19:57:23 GMT
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You know, as un-PC as it is for a Die-Hard Mac user to have such thoughts,
I've been thinking about it...

But the learning curve!

AARGH!

gantt

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

>
>Gantt, you need to PC :)
>
>"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote:

>>
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>>
>>Gantt

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>>
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Subject: Re: How Do You Get THAT Snare Sound?
Posted by [Doug Wellington](#) on Thu, 04 Jan 2007 18:34:03 GMT
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"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> writes:
> I listen to contemporary CD's - jazz, rock, R&B, C&W, you name it - and
> hear
> beautiful, bright snare drums that make my RTA bounce around in the 16K -
> 20K range. I can't make that happen without a ton of EQ.

OK, I admit it, I cheat to get that sound - Toontrack and Scarbee are my friends. And for those big film score drums, I use Storm Drum... (Links at my <http://www.softsampling.com> site.)

Doug (And what's wrong with cranking the EQ anyway?)

<http://www.parisfaqs.com>
