
Subject: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?

Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:35:44 GMT

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Now there's a school of thought that says that either you've got it, or you don't.

There's this guy on the other hand who reckons it can be learned, but then he's in the business of convincing people of that:

<http://www.perfectpitch.com/>

I'm thinking of buying the course, but at \$139 I wouldn't want to shell it out for nothing. On the other hand if it works, then \$139 is the bargain of the century.

Does anybody here actually know anyone who has developed it? A person who was a muso, and didn't have it, but then somehow learned it, or developed it, later? Is it possible?

I have kinda of partial perfect pitch. I'm thinking that if anybody can develop it that I would be able to. Sometimes I hear a song and know what key it's in straight away. It can just be obvious to me. And if I start imagining chords on piano usually I can hear them, and know what pitch they are, and that they are right in my head, and know exactly what they would sound like mostly. I can tune a guitar with no strings on it and get it within about 5-10 cents of in tune every time. But I can't reliably listen to a song on the radio and just easily hear what key it's in each time, or what chord is playing, or what note the melody is on. Often I can work it out, by referring to other songs in my head, but I'm far from just recognising every note straight off.

Do you think it's something that can be learned? Has anybody done it?

I know relative pitch is just a matter of training, but my relative pitch is pretty good usually.

Any opinions?

Cheers,
Kim.

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?

Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 03:43:40 GMT

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Kim,

I can tune a guitar (A=440hz) without any reference. I can do it consistently, from scratch.

If you hit middle C on a piano, I wouldn't have a clue what it was.

I think there may be degrees of pitch recognition....then again, I'm also colorblind in that I can see differences in the color spectrum but I can't tell you the names of the colors.....ie.....grass is red, unless there is a red reference that I can see....then I can tell it is green.....same scenario with green and grey, blue and purple, brown and green and the list goes on.

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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:04:44 GMT
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Sounds like a con to me Kim.
If it was any good at all, I'm sure they would be charging a lot more than
\$139.

Remember the old adage... "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably
is".

--

Martin Harrington
www.lendaneer-sound.com

"Kim" <hidensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message [news:445c1990\\$1@linux...](mailto:news:445c1990$1@linux...)

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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:15:15 GMT
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Might be right.

The other thing I'm considering is this:
<http://www.brenthugh.com/eartest/>

It's only \$12US, an amount I can put up with losing, and would possibly be more helpful, in that at least it allows you to make practice use of the skills, and tests you as you go.

My pitching ability has very slowly improved over the years... I can't help but think that some form of training might assist.

Cheers,
Kim.

"Martin Harrington" <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:15:42 GMT
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Funny you should mention color - that is how I hear pitches, in colorations and degrees, and I can't believe I'm the only one it works like this with. Kind of like when you hear an open E on a Gtr, you just know it's an open E. It's a blessing "and" a curse. When something's off it's like swallowing rusty roofing nails having to listen to it.

AA

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message news:445c1f01@linux...
> Kim,
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I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?
<http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:22:11 GMT
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"Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:
>Funny you should mention color - that is how I hear pitches, in colorations

>and degrees, and I can't believe I'm the only one it works like this with.

I was considering a while back maybe trying to write down the colors I felt were represented by each note. Do you actually mean that literally? That the notes are colors? Like, is there a note that's orange to you? If so, have you even compared to somebody else to see if both of you a "hearing the same colors"?

>Kind of like when you hear an open E on a Gtr, you just know it's an open E.

Yeh, there's no missing that... or a G chord is pretty obvious.

>It's a blessing "and" a curse. When something's off it's like swallowing

>rusty roofing nails having to listen to it.

I've heard this said by many with perfect pitch. I can't help but think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. I have enough perfect pitch already that I sometimes get thrown when I'm on a flat instrument. In fact it surprises me that I evidently do use some small amount of perfect pitch in my playing... every now again on a flat instrument I'll do something where I play a wrong chord and then realise "Hold on, that would have been right if the instrument was the right pitch".

So, do you actually think of actual colors? If so, would you mind listing the colors for me for each note? That might come in very handy...

Cheers,
Kim.

```
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:28:55 GMT
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Kim,
Have you finished your jazz training?!?!
Wow.

Really though,
What is it about perfect pitch that you would like?
It would drive me bananas. I have really good relative pitch
and it bugs me enough with the less than perfect
studio clients.

Start with intervals. Move on to chords (inversions too).
Be able to sing what you hear. I can use any CD for ear
training. It's almost a constant in my world. Just focus
on bass, vocal or whatever is somewhat deceiving to you.
If you can sing it you are more than half way there.
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<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>Kim,</FONT></DIV>
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href=3D"mailto:hiddensounds@hotmail.com">hiddensounds@hotmail.com</A>&gt;=
wrote=20

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in message <A=20
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>Have you finished your jazz training?!?!
>Wow.

Hehe, I don't muck about. ;o) Seriously though, I figure it would help a lot with jazz, due to the nature of jazz performance often involving musos making chord substitutions, and choosing their own scales. The better your ear, the better you can tell what everyone else is doing, and the better you can adapt.

>What is it about perfect pitch that you would like?

To be able to know exactly what's going on musically at any given point in time, without question... hence allowing me to focus only on playing, and never have to worry about working out what will fit.

>It would drive me bananas. I have really good relative pitch
>and it bugs me enough with the less than perfect
>studio clients.

True. I've given up recording other people though. For now anyhow. I used to find it too frustrating. I find it frustrating enough dealing with my own inadequacies, so when a client is less skilled than me... ARGHHH!!!

My relative pitch is quite good. I mean give me your average pop song, and if I am told, or able to work out, what key it's in, I can for the most part follow the whole thing all the way through in terms of what the chords are doing and the like. I get thrown a bit by odd key changes and the like however. I'd like my perception to be bullet proof.

I learned music initially by the Suzuki method, which is by ear, so my ear is generally very good. I just think it would be nice if it was better.

Cheers,
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [John Macy](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:42:33 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 04:54:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

ROTFL!!!!!!.....or an accordian

;o)

"John Macy" <spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote in message
news:445c2939\$1@linux...

>
> Damn--all this time time I thought perfect pitch was\
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Chris Latham](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 05:00:02 GMT
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Kim,

sounds like you may be experiencing some synesthesia.

CL

<http://synesthesia.com/>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 05:18:25 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

More like shades of coloring.. not hard black/white colors.
AA

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c2473\$1@linux...

>

> "Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>> Funny you should mention color - that is how I hear pitches, in

>> colorations

>

>> and degrees, and I can't believe I'm the only one it works like this with.

>

> I was considering a while back maybe trying to write down the colors I

> felt

> were represented by each note. Do you actually mean that literally? That

> the notes are colors? Like, is there a note that's orange to you? If so,

> have you even compared to somebody else to see if both of you a "hearing

> the same colors"?

>

>> Kind of like when you hear an open E on a Gtr, you just know it's an open

> E.

>

> Yeh, there's no missing that... or a G chord is pretty obvious.

>

>> It's a blessing "and" a curse. When something's off it's like swallowing

>

>> rusty roofing nails having to listen to it.

>

> I've heard this said by many with perfect pitch. I can't help but think

> the

> advantages outweigh the disadvantages. I have enough perfect pitch

> already

> that I sometimes get thrown when I'm on a flat instrument. In fact it

> surprises

> me that I evidently do use some small amount of perfect pitch in my

> playing...

> every now again on a flat instrument I'll do something where I play a

> wrong

> chord and then realise "Hold on, that would have been right if the

> instrument

> was the right pitch".

>

> So, do you actually think of actual colors? If so, would you mind listing

> the colors for me for each note? That might come in very handy...

>

> Cheers,

> Kim.

>

>>

>> AA

>>

>>

>>"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
>>news:445c1f01@linux...
>>> Kim,
>>>
>>> I can tune a guitar (A=440hz) without any reference. I can do it
>>> consistently, from scratch.
>>>
>>> If you hit middle C on a piano, I wouldn't have a clue what it was.
>>>
>>> I think there may be degrees of pitch recognition....then again, I'm
>>> also
>>> colorblind in that I can see differences in the color spectrum but I
>>> can't
>>> tell you the names of the colors.....ie.....grass is red, unless
>>> there
>
>>> is
>>> a red reference that I can see....then I can tell it is green.....same
>>> scenario with green and grey, blue and purple, brown and green and the
>
>>> list
>>> goes on.
>>>
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>>>> Any opinions?
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>>>> Cheers,
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>>>
>>>
>>
>>
>>I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?
>><http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>

>>
>>
>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 05:24:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Tell me, would I be kinda right in saying that, as you follow the circle of fifths, that the character of the color sort of changes slowly as you go through the fifths?

For example, I would say, as an overall statement, that keys that feature flats sound, as a rule, more mellow, where keys that feature sharps are a little more, umm, brittle kind of. An Eb, as a note, is quite mellow. It seems to me that certain characteristics of notes change as you move through the fifths. It's difficult to describe, but I think I have an understanding of the phenomena.

Does that kind of line up with what you hear?

Cheers,
Kim.

"Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:
>More like shades of coloring.. not hard black/white colors.
>AA
>
>"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c2473\$1@linux...
>>
>> "Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:
>>>Funny you should mention color - that is how I hear pitches, in
>>>colorations
>>
>>>and degrees, and I can't believe I'm the only one it works like this with.
>>
>> I was considering a while back maybe trying to write down the colors I

>> felt
>> were represented by each note. Do you actually mean that literally? That
>> the notes are colors? Like, is there a note that's orange to you? If so,
>> have you even compared to somebody else to see if both of you a "hearing
>> the same colors"?
>>
>>>Kind of like when you hear an open E on a Gtr, you just know it's an open
>> E.
>>

>> Yeh, there's no missing that... or a G chord is pretty obvious.
>>
>>>It's a blessing "and" a curse. When something's off it's like swallowing
>>
>>>rusty roofing nails having to listen to it.
>>
>> I've heard this said by many with perfect pitch. I can't help but think

>> the
>> advantages outweigh the disadvantages. I have enough perfect pitch
>> already
>> that I sometimes get thrown when I'm on a flat instrument. In fact it

>> surprises
>> me that I evidently do use some small amount of perfect pitch in my
>> playing...
>> every now again on a flat instrument I'll do something where I play a

>> wrong
>> chord and then realise "Hold on, that would have been right if the
>> instrument
>> was the right pitch".
>>
>> So, do you actually think of actual colors? If so, would you mind listing
>> the colors for me for each note? That might come in very handy...
>>
>> Cheers,
>> Kim.
>>
>>>
>>>AA
>>>
>>>
>>>"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
>>>news:445c1f01@linux...
>>>> Kim,
>>>>
>>>> I can tune a guitar (A=440hz) without any reference. I can do it
>>>> consistently, from scratch.
>>>>
>>>> If you hit middle C on a piano, I wouldn't have a clue what it was.
>>>>
>>>> I think there may be degrees of pitch recognition....then again, I'm

>>>> also
>>>> colorblind in that I can see differences in the color spectrum but I

>>>> can't

>>>> tell you the names of the colors.....ie.....grass is red, unless

>>>> there

>>

>>>> is

>>>> a red reference that I can see....then I can tell it is green.....same

>>>> scenario with green and grey, blue and purple, brown and green and the

>>

>>>> list

>>>> goes on.

>>>>

>>>> DeeJ

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> ux...

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>> Now there's a school of thought that says that either you've got it,

>> or

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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 05:41:39 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_010B_01C670AE.3853BC30

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charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Kim,

I'd focus on intervals for the sake of hearing lines in jazz.

Next I'd focus on harmony too. Hearing chords in all inversions.

Diatonic or not. Keys are only relative. Use your interval

training to hear the deceiving chord changes/melodies.

Go to a piano and plunk out two notes. State the interval.

Jump more than an octave or two also. When you can do that

you're in a good place. Get someone to play voicings/chord changes=20

for you. Be able to pick them out major, minor, diminished, augmented=20

with and without tensions. They shouldn't always be from the same key.=20

When you feel comfortable with this you'll be glad you don't have perfect =
pitch.

I've known two people with it and was quite distracting to them.

Site sing written melodies too. There's a lesson. Give yourself the =
starting note.

Sing the melody and see how close you are at the end. It all comes back =
to intervals.

Just a few ideas to try without spending \$\$\$.

Have fun with it,

Tom=20

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message =
news:445c2796\$1@linux...

>Have you finished your jazz training?!?!</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="79 741 146 758" data-label="Text">
 >Wow.
</div>
<div data-bbox="68 776 691 811" data-label="Text">
 Hehe, I don't muck about. ;o) Seriously though, I figure it would help =
 a
</div>
<div data-bbox="68 811 672 847" data-label="Text">
 lot with jazz, due to the nature of jazz performance often involving =
 musos
</div>
<div data-bbox="68 847 709 884" data-label="Text">
 making chord substitutions, and choosing their own scales. The better =
 your
</div>
<div data-bbox="68 883 653 919" data-label="Text">
 ear, the better you can tell what everyone else is doing, and the =
 better
</div>
</div>
<div data-bbox="68 957 490 972" data-label="Page-Footer">
 Page 37 of 85 ---- Generated from The PARIS Forums
</div>

you can adapt.

>What is it about perfect pitch that you would like?

To be able to know exactly what's going on musically at any given =
point in
time, without question... hence allowing me to focus only on playing, =
and
never have to worry about working out what will fit.

>It would drive me bananas. I have really good relative pitch
>and it bugs me enough with the less than perfect
>studio clients.

True. I've given up recording other people though. For now anyhow. I =
used
to find it too frustrating. I find it frustrating enough dealing with =
my
own inadequacies, so when a client is less skilled than me... =
ARGHHH!!!

My relative pitch is quite good. I mean give me your average pop song, =
and
if I am told, or able to work out, what key it's in, I can for the =
most part
follow the whole thing all the way through in terms of what the chords =
are
doing and the like. I get thrown a bit by odd key changes and the like =
however.
I'd like my perception to be bullet proof.

I learned music initially by the Suzuki method, which is by ear, so my =
ear
is generally very good. I just think it would be nice if it was =
better.

Cheers,
Kim.

>Start with intervals. Move on to chords (inversions too).
>Be able to sing what you hear. I can use any CD for ear
>training. It's almost a constant in my world. Just focus
>on bass, vocal or whatever is somewhat deceiving to you.
>If you can sing it you are more than half way there.
>I'm listening,
>Tom
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 ><DIV>Have you finished your jazz=3D20
 >training?!?!</DIV>
 ><DIV>Wow.</DIV>
 ><DIV> </DIV>
 ><DIV>Really though,</DIV>
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 =3D
 > wrote=3D20
 > in message <A=3D20
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 BR>=3D
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> but my relative =
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Any=3D20
> =20
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opinions?

Cheers,< BR>Kim.</BLOCKQUOTE><=
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-----=_NextPart_000_010B_01C670AE.3853BC30--

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 06:30:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I thought it was common knowledge that perfect pitch was being able to toss
a banjo into a dumpster, and, without hitting the sides, hit dead center
the accordion at the bottom.

-steve

yes, I used to play accordion with a banjo player...

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
>ROTFL!!!!.....or an accordian
>
>;o)
>
>"John Macy" <spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote in message
>news:445c2939\$1@linux...
>>
>> Damn--all this time time I thought perfect pitch was\
>> being able to throw a harmonica 25 feet into a toilet
>> without hitting the rim...
>>
>> :(
>>
>>
>> "Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:
>> >
>> >>Have you finished your jazz training?!?!
>> >>Wow.

>> >
>> >Hehe, I don't muck about. ;o) Seriously though, I figure it would help
>a
>> >lot with jazz, due to the nature of jazz performance often involving
>musos
>> >making chord substitutions, and choosing their own scales. The better
>your
>> >ear, the better you can tell what everyone else is doing, and the better
>> >you can adapt.
>> >
>> >>What is it about perfect pitch that you would like?
>> >
>> >To be able to know exactly what's going on musically at any given point
>> in
>> >time, without question... hence allowing me to focus only on playing,
>and
>> >never have to worry about working out what will fit.
>> >
>> >>It would drive me bananas. I have really good relative pitch
>> >>and it bugs me enough with the less than perfect
>> >>studio clients.
>> >
>> >True. I've given up recording other people though. For now anyhow. I
used
>> >to find it too frustrating. I find it frustrating enough dealing with
my
>> >own inadequacies, so when a client is less skilled than me... ARGHHH!!!
>> >
>> >My relative pitch is quite good. I mean give me your average pop song,
>and
>> >if I am told, or able to work out, what key it's in, I can for the most
>> part
>> >follow the whole thing all the way through in terms of what the chords
>are
>> >doing and the like. I get thrown a bit by odd key changes and the like
>however.
>> >I'd like my perception to be bullet proof.
>> >
>> >I learned music initially by the Suzuki method, which is by ear, so my
>ear
>> >is generally very good. I just think it would be nice if it was better.
>> >
>> >Cheers,
>> >Kim.
>> >
>> >>Start with intervals. Move on to chords (inversions too).
>> >>Be able to sing what you hear. I can use any CD for ear
>> >>training. It's almost a constant in my world. Just focus

>> >> on bass, vocal or whatever is somewhat deceiving to you.
>> >> If you can sing it you are more than half way there.
>> >> I'm listening,
>> >> Tom
>> >> "Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message =
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>> >> I know relative pitch is just a matter of training, but my relative
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>> >>
>> >> Any opinions?
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>> >> Cheers,
>> >> Kim.
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>> >><DIV>Have you finished your jazz=20
>> >>training?!?!</DIV>
>> >><DIV>Wow.</DIV>
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>> >><DIV>Really though,</DIV>
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I know relative pitch is just a matter of
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>> >> but my relative pitch
is pretty good usually.

Any=20
>> >> opinions?

Cheers,
Kim.</BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML >
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 06:41:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

.. An Eb, as a note, is quite mellow.

Kim-

I have pretty good relative pitch, but very unpredictable perfect pitch.
Sometimes I think I know a tune's key, and I nail it. Other times I'm equally
sure, and I'm off by a fifth. Or a third.

If you have good relative pitch, and can hear in your head one good, solid
note, like an open E, you should be able to use this to determine any other
note you hear, by relative pitch. I had a teacher once who could "hear" an
A in his head, and used that to tell the pitch of everything else. Sounds
goofy, but it worked.

Long ago I got one of those courses. Same guy. It was only, oh, like \$39
back then. This was long ago. Did I say that? Anyway, it as set up mostly
to use with another person, and I didn't have anyone around. But the first
lesson, sort of the demo, was to have your friend go to a piano and hit an
Eb, and then an F#. Have them hit a series of them. Listen to the difference
between them. The idea was that you wouldn't know which was which, but you'd
rapidly figure out that each note had its own qualities. Sure enough, there
was quite a difference, and not just the pitch. The Eb, as you say, was mellow,
and the F# was, relatively, quite grating. Then the instructions were to
go and do this on another instrument, because you'd honestly think it was

some peculiarity of your particular keyboard if you didn't. And sure enough, I noticed that ALL Ebs were mellow, and all F#s were the opposite.

At this point I got distracted, and never talked anyone else into helping along. The Dave Burg course is still around somewhere. Maybe it will turn up.

-steve

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [erlilo](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 07:13:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Don't say it too high, Steve is hearing you both. ;o)

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> skrev i melding
news:445c2f9b@linux...
> ROTFL!!!!!!.....or an accordian
>
> ;o)
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> "John Macy" <spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote in message
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>> without hitting the rim...
>>
>> :(

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 07:35:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"steve the artguy" <artguy@longtimenosee.net> wrote:
> Sometimes I think I know a tune's key, and I nail it. Other times I'm equally
> sure, and I'm off by a fifth. Or a third.

I can relate to this, though most often I'm either off by a 5th, or by a semitone, and I'm reasonably confident my semitone errors date back to the fact that I learned piano on an instrument that was almost a full semitone flat. I often suspect if I'd learned on a concert pitch piano I'd be there already.

>I had a teacher once who could "hear" an
>A in his head, and used that to tell the pitch of everything else.

Been doing it for years. ;o) I have a few songs and notes I can recall on demand, though it's sometimes a struggle. Sometimes I have to turn the music off in the room and get silence so I can imagine a reference note. Depends what the key is and stuff. Certain keys are easy. Acoustic guitar songs in G or E are very easy. Piano songs in C are easy (I mean there's a million references you can call up). It can be hard sometimes though, to keep two songs in your head at once and compare intervals, if they are in completely different keys.

>Anyway, it's set up mostly
>to use with another person,

This is why I downloaded this:
<http://www.brenthugh.com/eartest/>

....it's the other person, for \$12...

>the first
>lesson, sort of the demo, was to have your friend go to a piano and hit
an
>Eb, and then an F#.

Maybe I should start with those notes. They are quite obvious examples of different tonal colors.

Cheers,
Kim.

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?What is it???

Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 15:33:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi folks...You can "learn" relative pitch ..such as a 440 tuning fork tone..if you hear it over and over again...now whether you can discern "339" or "441" is very doubtful...Perfect Pitch would be someone who can name EXACT frequencies...without hearing ANY pitch reference...I am a piano tuner so A 440 is "Drilled" into my sub-conscious...and I can tune a guitar to 440 no problem...but that is "relative pitch"..Like someone else noted,learning the intervals in Music, is way more important than naming a frequency...unless you are a sound guy ,trying to find feedback from a sound system,or EQ roll off...As far as "colors" of notes go..that is a very old concept,dating back to the 1600's,before any "equal temperment" was set as a "standard"...there were many different early "temperments",based on feelings,colors,etc....cheers, Zan

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c1990\$1@linux...

>
>
> Now there's a school of thought that says that either you've got it, or
you
> don't.
>
> There's this guy on the other hand who reckons it can be learned, but then
> he's in the business of convincing people of that:
> <http://www.perfectpitch.com/>
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> I'm thinking of buying the course, but at \$139 I wouldn't want to shell it
> out for nothing. On the other hand if it works, then \$139 is the bargain
> of the century.
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> Does anybody here actually know anyone who has developed it? A person who
> was a muso, and didn't have it, but then somehow learned it, or developed
> it, later? Is it possible?
>
> I have kinda of partial perfect pitch. I'm thinking that if anybody can
develop
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> in straight away. It can just be obvious to me. And if I start imagining
> chords on piano usually I can hear them, and know what pitch they are, and
> that they are right in my head, and know exactly what they would sound
like
> mostly. I can tune a guitar with no strings on it and get it within about
> 5-10 cents of in tune every time. But I can't reliably listen to a song on
> the radio and just easily hear what key it's in each time, or what chord
> is playing, or what note the melody is on. Often I can work it out, by
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> to other songs in my head, but I'm far from just recognising every note
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> off.
>
> Do you think it's something that can be learned? Has anybody done it?
>
> I know relative pitch is just a matter of training, but my relative pitch
> is pretty good usually.
>
> Any opinions?
>
> Cheers,
> Kim.

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?

Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 17:04:36 GMT

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

I've only met one person in my life with perfect pitch from no reference note...he was a voice teacher that three band members used to take lessons from...every week we'd try and stump him with some weird chord and he'd just hit the correct notes then we'd check it on the piano and sure enough he was dead on the money

Most singers and players I know have very good relevant pitch, meaning give them a reference note and they're good to go from there i.e. any interval

You can learn relevant pitch and I did when studying tympani...try retuning four tymps to a different key in the middle of a symphony...not hard once you learn the trick...requires a little practice and a little singing

Don

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c1990\$1@linux...

>

>

> Now there's a school of thought that says that either you've got it, or

> you

> don't.

>

> There's this guy on the other hand who reckons it can be learned, but then

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> Cheers,
> Kim.

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 18:18:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Kim" <hiddenounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c331a\$1@linux...

>
>
> Tell me, would I be kinda right in saying that, as you follow the circle
> of fifths, that the character of the color sort of changes slowly as you
> go through the fifths?

The charactor shades lighter as it moves up the scale tones. Not necessarily the circle of fifths, although that fits also.

>
> For example, I would say, as an overall statement, that keys that feature
> flats sound, as a rule, more mellow, where keys that feature sharps are a
> little more, umm, brittle kind of.

I think this holds water on stringed/fingerboard instruments, although I don't hear it in things like Piano and especially sampled instruments. Another interesting part of that equation is when you detune a gtr (like Van Halen does, for example) and you hear the colors/intonations but they're off. More like a clouding, darkness added to each variation. Start adding in synths to that detuning and things get even more cloudy when mix analyzing. Again, like VH did

>An Eb, as a note, is quite mellow. It
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> the fifths. It's difficult to describe, but I think I have an
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> Cheers,

> Kim.

All that make enough sense man?

Cheers returned,

AA

>

> "Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>>More like shades of coloring.. not hard black/white colors.

>>AA

>>

>>"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c2473\$1@linux...

>>>

>>> "Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>>>>Funny you should mention color - that is how I hear pitches, in

>>>>colorations

>>>

>>>>and degrees, and I can't believe I'm the only one it works like this

>>>>with.

>>>

>>> I was considering a while back maybe trying to write down the colors I

>

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>>> were represented by each note. Do you actually mean that literally? That

>>> the notes are colors? Like, is there a note that's orange to you? If so,

>>> have you even compared to somebody else to see if both of you a "hearing

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>>>>Kind of like when you hear an open E on a Gtr, you just know it's an

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>>>>news:445c1f01@linux...
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>>>>> If you hit middle C on a piano, I wouldn't have a clue what it was.
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>>>>> goes on.
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>>>>>> developed
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 >>>>I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?
 >>>><http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>
 >>>>
 >>>>

>>>
>>
>>
>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Bill Lorentzen](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 18:18:58 GMT
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I don't doubt that it is learnable. We can do lots of things we don't know we can do until we work at them. This guy has been selling the course for a long time. It probably works OK. And realistically any improvement that you can apply to your playing or writing would be worth \$130.

I think I will buy the course.

Bill

"Don Nafe" <dnafe@magma.ca> wrote in message [news:445cd64e\\$1@linux...](#)
> I've only met one person in my life with perfect pitch from no reference
> note...he was a voice teacher that three band members used to take lessons
> from...every week we'd try and stump him with some weird chord and he'd
> just hit the correct notes then we'd check it on the piano and sure enough
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> Most singers and players I know have very good relevant pitch, meaning
> give them a reference note and they're good to go from there i.e. any
> interval
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> You can learn relevant pitch and I did when studying tympani...try
> retuning four tymps to a different key in the middle of a symphony...not
> hard once you learn the trick...requires a little practice and a little
> singing
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> Don
>
>
> "Kim" <hidensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message [news:445c1990\\$1@linux...](#)
>>
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>> is pretty good usually.
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>> Any opinions?
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>> Cheers,
>> Kim.
>
>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 23:40:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron,

Thanks for your help man. I think I might be getting a little bit of a handle on where it's at. I still suspect that it's locked in me somewhere...

I've shelled out for the little \$12 program which tests you. I'll see how I go...

Cheers,
Kim.

"Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>

>"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c331a\$1@linux...

>>

>>

>> Tell me, would I be kinda right in saying that, as you follow the circle
>> of fifths, that the character of the color sort of changes slowly as you
>> go through the fifths?

>

>The character shades lighter as it moves up the scale tones. Not necessarily

>the circle of fifths, although that fits also.

>

>>

>> For example, I would say, as an overall statement, that keys that feature
>> flats sound, as a rule, more mellow, where keys that feature sharps are
a

>> little more, umm, brittle kind of.

>

>I think this holds water on stringed/fingerboard instruments, although I

>don't hear it in things like Piano and especially sampled instruments.

>Another interesting part of that equation is when you detune a gtr (like
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>Again, like VH did

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>> "Aaron Allen" <nospam@not_here.dude> wrote:
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>>>"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:445c2473\$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 05:49:22 GMT
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I worked with Mel Torme many, many years ago and he had perfect pitch. I think many of the orchestra members were a little rattled by it.

--
Martin Harrington
www.lendanear-sound.com

"Don Nafe" <dnafe@magma.ca> wrote in message news:445cd64e\$1@linux...
> I've only met one person in my life with perfect pitch from no reference
> note...he was a voice teacher that three band members used to take lessons
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>> Cheers,
>> Kim.
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>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 05:53:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I got sorta' smashed and blundered into a private dinner party that included Mel Torme and Leslie Uggams at a restaurant in Austin back in the 80's. We were all pretty surprised. Mel was nice about it, shook my hand and bought me a drink (*as if I needed one ;o)

The 80's.....what a time to be alive.

;o)

"Martin Harrington" <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote in message news:445d898a\$1@linux...
> I worked with Mel Torme many, many years ago and he had perfect pitch.
> I think many of the orchestra members were a little rattled by it.
> --
> Martin Harrington
> www.lendaneer-sound.com
>
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>
>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 08:07:02 GMT
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I'm playing this crazy "game" at the moment. This program feeds me notes...
up to five different notes, and I can select which five notes it chooses
from. I've been guessing between the notes C, C#, D, Eb, E, played over 4
different octaves... had 72 shots. 90% correct (7 wrong)... finished on
a winning streak of 27 correct answers in a row. Doing my head in though.
I can only imagine how hard it will be when I get the real one and have to
choose between all 12 notes...

But I wan tperfect pitch and I want it NOW!!! I've waited long enough! ARGHHH!!!
;o)

I'm going to be really annoyed if I haven't got it mastered by bedtime...
;o)

Cheers,
Kim.

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:
>
>

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you
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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 08:36:57 GMT
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Ha-Ha, just after working with Mel, I worked with Leslie Uggams for 3 weeks

also, then with Jerry Lewis, then Tiny Tim..then.....

What a name-dropper.

If only I knew then what I know now. (I'd still know nothing....)

--

Martin Harrington

www.lendaneer-sound.com

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message
news:445d8c8b@linux...

>I got sorta' smashed and blundered into a private dinner party that
>included

> Mel Torme and Leslie Uggams at a restaurant in Austin back in the 80's. We
> were all pretty surprised. Mel was nice about it, shook my hand and bought
> me a drink (*as if I needed one ;o)

>

> The 80's.....what a time to be alive.

>

> ;o)

>

>

> "Martin Harrington" <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote in message
> news:445d898a\$1@linux...

>> I worked with Mel Torme many, many years ago and he had perfect pitch.

>> I think many of the orchestra members were a little rattled by it.

>> --

>> Martin Harrington

>> www.lendaneer-sound.com

>>

>> "Don Nafe" <dnafe@magma.ca> wrote in message news:445cd64e\$1@linux...

>> > I've only met one person in my life with perfect pitch from no

>> > reference

>> > note...he was a voice teacher that three band members used to take
> lessons

>> > from...every week we'd try and stump him with some weird chord and he'd

>> > just hit the correct notes then we'd check it on the piano and sure

> enough

>> > he was dead on the money

>> >

>> > Most singers and players I know have very good relevant pitch, meaning

>> > give them a reference note and they're good to go from there i.e. any

>> > interval

>> >

>> > You can learn relevant pitch and I did when studying tympani...try

>> > retuning four tymps to a different key in the middle of a

>> > symphony...not

>> > hard once you learn the trick...requires a little practice and a little

>> > singing

>> >

>> > Don
>> >
>> >
>> > "Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message
> news:445c1990\$1@linux...
>> >>
>> >>
>> >> Now there's a school of thought that says that either you've got it,
>> >> or
>> >> you
>> >> don't.
>> >>
>> >> There's this guy on the other hand who reckons it can be learned, but
>> >> then
>> >> he's in the business of convincing people of that:
>> >> <http://www.perfectpitch.com/>
>> >>
>> >> I'm thinking of buying the course, but at \$139 I wouldn't want to
>> >> shell
>> >> it
>> >> out for nothing. On the other hand if it works, then \$139 is the
> bargain
>> >> of the century.
>> >>
>> >> Does anybody here actually know anyone who has developed it? A person
> who
>> >> was a muso, and didn't have it, but then somehow learned it, or
> developed
>> >> it, later? Is it possible?
>> >>
>> >> I have kinda of partial perfect pitch. I'm thinking that if anybody
>> >> can
>> >> develop
>> >> it that I would be able to. Sometimes I hear a song and know what key
>> >> it's
>> >> in straight away. It can just be obvious to me. And if I start
> imagining
>> >> chords on piano usually I can hear them, and know what pitch they are,
>> >> and
>> >> that they are right in my head, and know exactly what they would sound
>> >> like
>> >> mostly. I can tune a guitar with no strings on it and get it within
> about
>> >> 5-10 cents of in tune every time. But I can't reliably listen to a
>> >> song
>> >> on
>> >> the radio and just easily hear what key it's in each time, or what
> chord

>> >> is playing, or what note the melody is on. Often I can work it out, by
>> >> referring
>> >> to other songs in my head, but I'm far from just recognising every
>> >> note
>> >> straight
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>> >>
>> >> Do you think it's something that can be learned? Has anybody done it?
>> >>
>> >> I know relative pitch is just a matter of training, but my relative
> pitch
>> >> is pretty good usually.
>> >>
>> >> Any opinions?
>> >>
>> >> Cheers,
>> >> Kim.
>> >
>> >
>>
>>
>
>

Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kateeba](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 12:53:46 GMT
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Kim

I bought David L. Burge's perfect pitch course many years ago, and began studying it. I believe you CAN learn perfect pitch if you study hard, but.....I soon realized that it would NOT be worth the trouble and time it would have taken for me to learn it, and I am a jazz musician. See, to be able to pick out any tone and name it, is good, but NOT necessary to improvise. But to be able to hear chords, and recognize EVERY note in them, and intervals and know their relationships backwards and forwards, is much more valuable, so..... after buying his perfect pitch course, and returning it, I tried his "Relative pitch" course and it is unbelievable!!! If you study his relative pitch course (and I must say, it could take up to a year or two to really master it), it will be of immense help with ANY music, especially jazz and improvised music. It builds up your ear so intensely, and thoroughly, it is scary. So my advice is, instead of spending your money on the perfect pitch course, get the relative pitch course instead. It has helped me immensely!

Lou Guarino Jr.
www.enchantedvibrations.com

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>Now there's a school of thought that says that either you've got it, or you

>don't.

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>There's this guy on the other hand who reckons it can be learned, but then >he's in the business of convincing people of that:

><http://www.perfectpitch.com/>

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>Cheers,

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Subject: Re: Perfect Pitch - Can you learn it?
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 22:55:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Louis,

Thanks for the advice. I'll keep that in mind for sure. I think I've decided, for the time being at least, not to purchase the \$139 perfect pitch course, for now at least.

From a few posts around the net that I've found, and some comments here, I think I have the basic idea of what is involved in perfect pitch. I've invested \$12US, which is nothing, in a little utility that throws notes at me, so I can test myself. That should allow me to develop things if I wish. I'll play with that for a month or so and see how I go.

The problem I do have, however, with the perfect pitch program I have, is that I always have a reference (being that last note played). 3/4 times, even octaves apart, I can work out the note playing using relative pitch already. That said I do have some work to do in learning more jazz chords by ear. I'm not familiar enough yet with the sound of things like 9ths, 11ths and 13ths and all the variations thereof. Doing a bit more playing will help a lot though.

I might look into that relative pitch course though, perhaps in a couple of months, depending how I go with perfect pitch.

Thanks for the advice.

Cheers,
Kim.

"Louis Guarino Jr." <Kateeba@snet.net> wrote:

>

>Kim

>

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