



What's In The Mix?

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Introduction

Sound mixing enhances music and establishes a genres general "vibe". However, mixing's influence on a song is questionable, can mixing alone significantly change a piece's genre?

Summary

Mixing is a powerful stylistic tool that can change a song's genre and give it the final artistic touch. It refines music and gives it a unique appeal. If my hypothesis is correct, this would increase sound mixers' credibility, demonstrating their work is an art form that requires skill and practice.

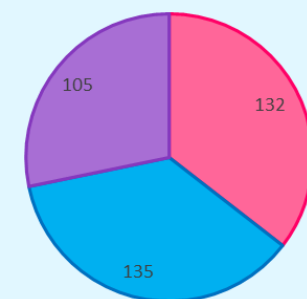
Methodology

The study utilized qualitative that was turned to quantitative data from interviews with Lucky Run recording studio staff and patrons. Three unreleased songs from pop, hip-hop, and jazz genres were sampled and a mixing pattern was developed based on each genre. The listener listened to the original and alternative mixes, guessed the mixing pattern of the played sample, and repeated this process for the remaining songs.

Results

Pop Hip-hop Jazz

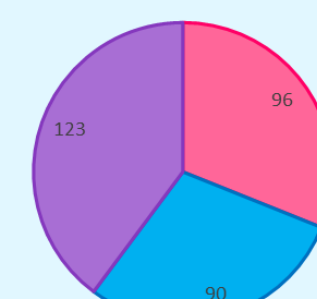
Total Mix
Patterns ✓ Guesses



This chart shows how many correct mixing pattern guesses

each mixing pattern is responsible for. Pop has 132 correct guesses, hip-hop has 135 correct guesses, and jazz has 105 correct guesses.

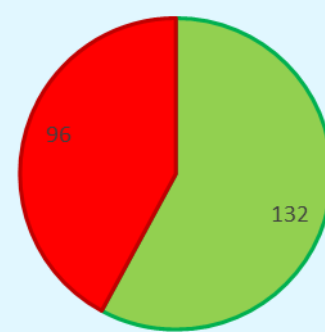
Total Mix
Patterns ✗ Guesses



This chart shows how many incorrect mixing pattern guesses

each mixing pattern is responsible for. Pop had 96 incorrect guesses, hip-hop had 90 incorrect guesses, and jazz had 123 incorrect guesses.

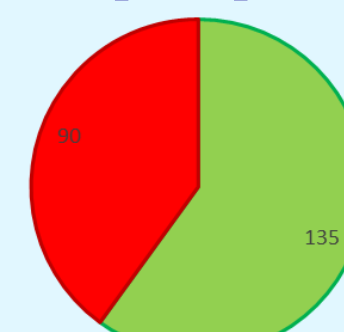
Pop Mix ✓ / ✗



This chart shows the total amount of correct and incorrect mixing pattern guesses for the pop mixes. This pie chart shows that the pop mixing pattern had enough effect on the sample to change most of the listener's perception of the original piece's genre.

Incorrect

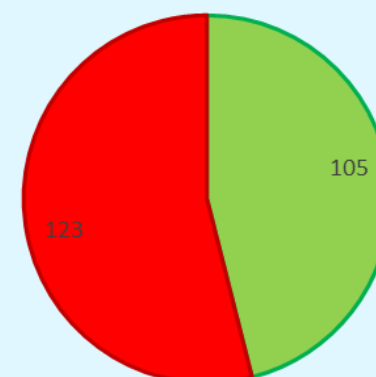
Hip-Hop Mix ✓ / ✗



This chart shows the total amount of correct and incorrect mixing pattern guesses for the hip-hop mixes. This pie chart shows that the hip-hop mixing pattern had enough effect on the sample to change most of the listener's perception of the original piece's genre.

Correct

Jazz Mix ✓ / ✗



This chart shows the total amount of correct and incorrect mixing pattern guesses for the jazz mixes. This pie chart shows that the jazz mixing pattern did not have enough effect on the sample to change most of the listener's perception of the original piece genre.

Correct

Findings

The study included 76 interviews and confirmed my hypothesis with two of the chosen genres, hip-hop and pop. I feel this is due to how well known the genres are. Hip-hop has a distinctive bass, while pop music emphasizes vocals and has a light, bright-sounding EQ effect. Jazz lacks these identifiers, making non-jazz samples sound like a poorly mixed pop or hip-hop songs when mixed with jazz mixing patterns.

Discussion



The experiment's outcome is largely influenced by the extent of mixing alteration, as the chosen genre mixing pattern was not fully utilized due to ensure equal quality of mixing, limiting artistic potential.



The experiment's outcome was influenced by the listener's patterns of music consumption, as unfamiliarity and bias towards genres can lead to incorrect genre guessing.