
Subject: Re: Ultrasonic Headphone Tip of the Month
Posted by [Thermionic](#) on Sat, 15 May 2010 16:24:15 GMT

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This is a great, highly useful tip that many aren't aware of. How you sound to yourself definitely has a profound psychological effect on your performance, so profound that it should be one of the first things an apprentice recording engineer learns. Etiquette and manners when interacting with the musicians is the other. If you tell a singer (with a condescending tone of voice), "You really botched that track; we're gonna have to do it over," then she's probably not gonna sing at the top of her game for the rest of that session.

99% of the time, you know when you messed up, and don't need somebody to tell you. You'll request to retrack the bad part and punch it in, or else redo the entire track. The proper way for the engineer to handle the other 1% would be something like, "Great job! (short pause) Tell you what. That was great, but you're really on fire today and I think you have it in you to top even that one. Let's cut it one more time, and then we can pick the best of the two.

Sorry for the rant; I've recorded with some engineers that were real flakes.....

Back to the topic: EQ and reverb in the cans monitor mix also works great for acoustic guitar, especially with a wee hint of chorus added. If you hear a dry, flat tone while tracking, it's harder to play well. OTOH, laying down a polished, flawless track with soul and finesse is nigh unto effortless when your tone is "there." At least that's how it is for me, anyway.

Thermionic
