
Subject: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analogue?

Posted by [telegraph.hill](#) on Sun, 13 Aug 2006 17:09:55 GMT

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Of course we all know of the advantages of digital, but is the sound quality really as good as that of analogue? Why do so many people still buy vinyl?

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analogue?

Posted by [akhilesh](#) on Tue, 22 Aug 2006 19:56:02 GMT

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In my opinion, they like the EQ curve, and many have large record collections. Also, engineers knew how to master vinyl, but it took them a LONG time to learn to master CDs, which are EQ'd flat. -akhilesh

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analogue?

Posted by [telegraph.hill](#) on Fri, 08 Sep 2006 19:26:45 GMT

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What's the EQ curve? What are its axes?

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analogue?

Posted by [cfranz](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 12:35:58 GMT

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Since no-one else replied, I will. Look up RIAA equalization on the web. Plenty of information. There are several tutorials with lots of math and curve plots. As for whether it sounds better or not. Beats me. I have lots of records so I listen to them. I also have lots of CDs. I prefer the records but... My turntable, cartridge, pre-amp, etc. is of much higher quality than my CD stuff (currently). Interestingly I am developing the opinion that, dollar for dollar, currently, the best CD reproduction outperforms the best Vinyl reproduction. I've listened to truly stunning systems for both and the dollars to reach stunning for CD is, I believe, now below that (sometimes well below) that of vinyl. YMMV, void where prohibited by law, pay no attention to the man behind the curtain, etc., etc.

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analoge?

Posted by [Crazy Dave](#) on Wed, 01 Nov 2006 21:42:06 GMT

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I beg to disagree. You are probably correct if you talking about new, but very good quality turntables are available very cheap. My best find was a Linn LP12 with a Grace 707 for \$25.00 in a thrift store. Add another \$200 for a belt, springs, felt matt and a Shure M97xe and you are getting very good sound. OK, this is an extreme case but I see fantastic turntables at the thrift all the time. I have so many, I've stopped buying them!(My CD player is an Acurus.) Add that to the fact that you can buy records for \$1 a pop and vinyl is still you cheapest entertainment value.I have some of the best sounding vinyl that you can buy in my collection. I have Shaded Dogs, Mercury Living Presence, Mobile Fidelity UHQR's, 6-eyed Columbia, DG Tulips, Beatles British and German pressings, etc. However, I'm not convinced it is the medium. I have some very good sounding CDs, so I admit that it can be done, but a far greater portion of my record collection sounds good. Most of my CD's sound like they are poorly mixed. Popular music can be horrible. You do fare much better with classical if you choose carefully. It doesn't really matter if CD has the potential to be as good or even better than vinyl. The reality is that it more often CDs don't measure up! Dave

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analoge?

Posted by [cfranz](#) on Thu, 02 Nov 2006 13:39:34 GMT

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re. I beg to disagree. Don't have to beg, man. I welcome the exchange of ideas. No disagreement. It has taken the industry 30 years to learn how to mix for a digital medium. But then also, many, if not most, rock albums have ALWAYS been engineered by a dyslexic orangutan.Then also, almost ALL of the new wax has been 'digitally' re-mastered. So... what's the difference?Peace,Carl

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analoge?

Posted by [Crazy Dave](#) on Thu, 02 Nov 2006 16:27:37 GMT

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I would refer you to original issue 2-eyed Columbia albums such as Santana's first and Big Brother and the Holding Company, Cheap Thrills. These sound fantastic on vinyl. One CD that they got the digital remaster right is West Side Story. It sound better than the vinyl and I have both.Dave

Subject: Re: Is the sound quality of digital really as good as analoge?

Posted by [RickeyM](#) on Sun, 10 Dec 2006 02:10:50 GMT

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I'm starting to think of it this way. Digital is better, it's just the implementation limits it. It seems to me that digital playback is so revealing that any weak links in the chain can cause the audio quality be not at it's best. That chain includes everything from the mechanical systems to the electrical components as well. An example is the change in audio sound & characteristics I experienced when I lopped off the stock nickel plated blade, molded OEM plug on my CD player and installed one with polished brass blades. The best mod men out there pay special attention to the things that affect the sound and improve them. Taking us closer to the true potential that digital playback has to offer. Well, that's just my two cents worth...
