

6 Trouble Frequency Areas

That Can Ruin Your Mix!

Stop The Frustration And Bring Clarity And Separation To Your Mixes

Trouble Area #1: 200Hz (Muddy)

Too much 200Hz can cause the track or the mix to sound muddy or boomy, while not enough can make it sound thin. It's a fine line, but many times mixers err on the side of too much and end up with a track that's too thick that clutters up the mix.

Trouble Area #2: 300Hz To 500Hz (Boxy)

Too much of this frequency area results in the dreaded "boxy" sound, or if you're listening to a floor tom or kick, the "beach ball" effect. It's also a spot that some less expensive microphones (especially dynamics) tend to emphasize, which is why many mixers almost automatically cut a few dB of this area out of the kick drum during the mix.

Trouble Area #3: 800Hz (Walmart)

Too much in this area results in what's sometimes known as the "Walmart" sound, meaning that it sounds like a cheap stereo purchased in a department store. Try it for yourself - get a cheap pair of computer speakers and you'll find that 800Hz is what you'll mostly hear. Obviously, too much of this frequency range is not a good thing.

Trouble Area #4: 1kHz To 1.5kHz (Nasal)

This is the nasal range of the frequency spectrum and, as the name suggests, too much results in a vocalist that sounds like she's singing through her nose. This may be primarily a microphone problem in that it's poorly matched to the vocalist, but notching a bit out during the mix can fix it.

Trouble Area #5: 4kHz To 6kHz (Presence)

This frequency range is frequently underutilized during the mix, resulting in a track that lacks definition. Without it, things tend to sound dull, but too much can make the track sound thin or, in the case of a vocal, sibilant.

Trouble Area #6: 10kHz+ (Air)

Another widely overlooked frequency band, this provides clarity and adds a certain "realness" to the track. Many vintage mics have a lot of the air frequencies, which is why we prize them for their sound. The Maag Audio EQ4P EQ plugin has a special "Air Band" designed to add those frequencies back in the mix with a minimum of phase shift, but you can dial it in on other equalizers as well.

Useful Resources from Bobby Owsinski

Blogs: [Music Production Blog](#) [Music Industry Blog](#) [Forbes Blog](#)

Courses: [Bobby Owsinski Courses](#) [Hit Makers Club](#)

Podcast: [Bobby Owsinski's Inner Circle](#) Website: [BobbyOwsinski.com](#)

Shrink The Gap Between You And The Experts

