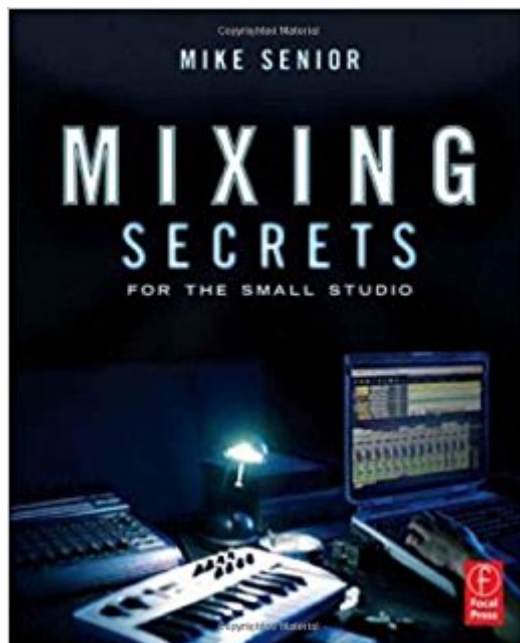


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# Mixing Secrets For The Small Studio



## Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Focal Press; 13612th edition (1994)

ASIN: B008GB0K82

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 435 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"Mixing Secrets" is a wonderfully written book, both for the straight-up beginner as well as for those who have some working knowledge of audio engineering. Mike Senior untangles the seemingly chaotic workflow of the top mix engineers and outlines the processes that, with practice, will lead to higher quality mixes. The reader is lead through the process of identifying problems and various approaches to solving problems starting with the most basic to more advanced tools and techniques. Along with explaining how to identify the problem and techniques that might be used to solve the problem, the author provides lists of cost effective plugins that may not be bundled with your DAW software. Each section of the book ends with a task list and summary of the decision making process behind each task. I have read through this book more than once now and I also have been using it as a reference while I am working on projects. I would highly recommend taking notes and creating an outline of the tasks presented for your own quick reference. I have been both a hobbyist and, at times, a paid professional in the audio business over the course of 15 years and have found "Mixing Secrets" to be a very valuable resource. It has both validated some of my instincts and illuminated glaring issues and abuses I have developed over the years. This is not a reference for aural physics, acoustics, or tracking. If you looking for a such a book, look elsewhere. "Mixing Secrets" is a very easily understood presentation of the goals of mixing and the processes by which to meet those goals. Highly recommended.

After mixing and mastering a couple CDs with rather trivial arrangements of just 2 instruments, I thought I was ready to jump into something more complex with songs consisting of 6-10 tracks. Little did I know I was in over my head. I started reading this book just as I was starting the project and am thankful I did. I've been scanning the various chapters and then going into detail where I found big holes in my knowledge. This project is coming along fairly well now, even knowing I'm

probably going to find sections of the book that will make me want to go back and redo things that I've already done. For me, with my (limited) prior experience, this book is at exactly the right level for me to understand and make immediate application to my current project. It may not be as great for someone who has zero experience in mixing, but I highly recommend it to anyone with a basic idea about mixing and needing good, practical advice on how to improve quickly.

As a project studio operator, *Mixing Secrets* has been the single resource I can point to that got me over the hump and into the territory where I can begin seriously competing with established professionals - all while remaining on a humble budget. Mike Senior gives the novice the fundamental information necessary to understand and execute all basic mixing tasks as well as many advanced mixing ones. Where an advanced technique is not included the fundamental knowledge to understand it has nonetheless been provided. In other words, as a result of working through this book, articles on arcane mixing techniques become easy to digest, even if they aren't described in the book. More importantly, his pedagogy is extremely sound. He takes a complicated, non-intuitive, subjective, and non-linear process and gets the student through it as if it were simple, obvious, linear, and objective, all the while providing the student with the necessary caveats to understand where the process has been simplified to make it easier to learn. Therefore the student, as he gains experience, can incorporate a more fluid approach as necessary, skipping between various mixing tasks instead of doing them in the preset order that Mike lays out for beginners. The book has immense re-readability. The "Cut To The Chase" pages at the end of each chapter highlight the section's important points. I recommend tabbing them with post-it notes for quick review. Additionally, reexamination of any chapter reveals situation specific tips that become increasingly relevant as the student gains experience. For a person with a limited budget who is willing to put in the time to work through Mike's lesson plan, *Mixing Secrets* is an invaluable resource. It is a book designed to scale with your budget. As you become successful enough to justify more expensive equipment, *Mixing Secrets* will be there to help you make the most out of your time and effort. Additional value is derived by providing a firm and comprehensive foundation of mixing fundamentals. After reading *Mixing Secrets*, books and articles on more advanced topics become easier to grasp, even if they are written poorly. I recommend this book all the time to audio professionals who are looking for a good resource for their students, and I recommend it to any hearty bootstrapping project studio operator who wants to make the best use of his time and money while laying a strong foundation for his future development. It takes time to meticulously work through Mike's lesson plan, but I can't call that a downside since there are no shortcuts in the

pursuit of excellence. There are, however, ways to maximize the effectiveness of your efforts, and this is the best I know when it comes to mixing.

Very informative, with a lot of tricks that I've picked up over the years intuitively, plus more that I had no idea how to do. Highly recommended for both beginners and beyond.

Indispensable, must-have book for the shelf of any home recording enthusiast. Well written, enlightening and easy to understand, *Mixing Secrets* reveals some great tricks and techniques used by many well known pro tracking and mixing engineers. You will be amazed how basic some of these techniques are. Implementing just a few of the tips mentioned in this book will improve your mix, but the wealth of information and ideas overall will broaden your view and equip you with knowledge and techniques to seriously understand and improve your approach to recording and enhance your listening environment for optimum results.

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