

Amplifier: A device which increases the amplitude of a signal.

Ambient Audio: The background noise present in a scene or recording location.

Audio: The range of sound frequencies which can be heard by humans.

Bus: The pathway along which an electrical signal flows. For example, the output of a sound mixer is referred to as the *master stereo bus*.

Channel: Similar to a bus, a pathway through an audio device. For example, sound mixers have multiple input channels. More

Compression (1): A method of reducing the size of a digital file.

Compression (2): A method of "evening out" the dynamic range of a signal.

DAT: Digital Audio Tape.

Decibel (dB): Logarithmic measurement of signal strength. 1/10 of a Bel.

Equalization: The process of adjusting various audio frequencies to correct or enhance the sound.

Fade: A transition to or from silence.

Frequency: Vibrations per second. Less than 20Hz is inaudible to most, more than 20,000Hz is also inaudible.

Frequency Response: The sensitivity of an audio device to various frequencies, i.e. the amount each frequency is boosted, attenuated or reproduced

Gain: The amplification level of an audio signal.

Hertz: Unit of frequency, cycles per second.

Headroom: In a cable or audio device, the difference between the maximum level of the signal being carried and the maximum level the device is capable of carrying without distortion. Headroom is safety room.

Impedance: The amount of opposition a device has to an audio signal. In technical terms,

MIDI: Musical Instrument Digital Interface. A standard of communication between musical instruments, controllers and computers.

Mixer: A device which accepts two or more audio inputs and provides one or more audio outputs.

Peak: The highest level of strength of an audio signal. Often refers to an unacceptably high level, where the signal begins distorting

Phantom Power: A DC current which is sent through audio cables to provide power for devices such as microphones.

Reverb: Reverberation, the effect of sound waves bouncing off walls and other objects. More info: [Audio Reverb](#)

Sample: In digital audio recording, thousands of individual "samples" are recorded every second. Added together these make up the digital audio signal.

Stereo: Audio which is made up of two channels — left and right.

Transducer: Any device which converts energy from one form into another. Microphones and loudspeakers are both transducers.

Ultrasonic: Audio frequencies which are too high to be heard by humans (above approximately 20,000 kHz).