

3 BACKTHIRDAUDIO

Learn to Mix! Classes Start March 3

Sound Foundations is something new – crash courses in audio for the uninitiated. We assume no prior knowledge. We put you in the studio for a month, tell you what’s really going on and give you lots of cool knobs to turn and nice microphones to play with. You leave ready to mix a band. It’s just that simple.

If your speakers could speak, they’d be begging you to get in here.

Classes are small – 8 students or fewer– and appropriate for anyone over the age of 14 who plays in a band, mixes a band, does any kind of recording or just digs popular music and wants to understand how it gets made. They’re also great for folks who have some mixing experience but want to fill in a few holes in their knowledge of “the basics.”

Sound Foundations I: Stage Sound

Ever hear an awful screech at a concert and wonder where it came from?

Sound Foundations I is a crash course on how to run a live sound system. Students will leave knowing how to design, set up and run a PA for their band, church or school. Our goal is to lay a good foundation – great sound is part art and part science, and it takes time and experience to do it like a pro. We’ll give you the tools to make your experience count.

Topics to be covered include PA signal path, gain staging, setup and teardown, mixing for stage and front of house, EQ, effects, microphone placement and communicating with “the band” without sorrow or bloodshed. We’ll devote our last full class to troubleshooting – what could go wrong, and how to find it and fix it.

Many of the principles of this course are further developed in **Sound Foundations II: Studio Sound**. We recommend (but don’t require) this Stage Sound course as a prerequisite to the Studio Sound course.

Classes meet from 6pm to 9pm on March 3, 10, 17 and 24. All students will receive a **course handbook**. Bring a three-ring binder and pen or pencil.

Registration is \$235 for the four-week course.

Contact Backthird Audio at **630-264-2366** or visit **backthird.com/classes**.

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Sound Foundations I: Stage Sound – Expected Course Outline

- **Day One: Signal Path, Gain Stages, Elements of a PA**
 - Signal path in the PA
 - Gain Stages
 - Mic, line and speaker level
 - Connector types
 - How does each item in the chain color sound?
 - Signal path problems and how to avoid them (pops, clipping, feedback)
- **Day Two: The Mixer, Setup/Teardown**
 - Signal path in the mixer
 - Setting up and powering up
 - Key setup decisions
 - Crosstalk and cable handling
 - Powering down and tearing down
- **Day Three: Mixing**
 - Elements in a mix
 - EQ principles and guidelines
 - Reverb/FX
 - Compression
 - Stereo
 - Mix philosophy
- **Day Four: The Stage and Troubleshooting**
 - Signal-to-noise ratio
 - Ground loops and mains hum
 - Microphones – types, choice, placement
 - DIs and line-level gear
 - Monitors
 - Room acoustics and setup (master EQ)
 - Basic problems and answers
 - Troubleshooting clinic

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