

Name _____

RA2 Mix- Step #6 = "Mix Bus" Processing & Reference Audio

Circle one: **Mix 2:** Back/Blue **Mix 4:** Above **Due by** _____

Need help, review? Watch video in COS Videos for Class folder > "[RR How To Mix 02 – Mix Bus Processing](#)"

MIX BUS Steps

MIX SECRET = For now you can ignore the EQ part of this video. However, if you want to try, you can always bypass it. Just remember to do tiny movements.

1. **Find the loudest part of the SONG** and loop that section.
2. Click the **2nd space Insert** on the **MIX BUS > Plug-in > Dynamics > Dyn3 Compressor/Limiter (stereo)**
3. **MIX SECRET** = Keep your eyes on the meters ("IN", "OUT", "GR" (Gain Reduction))
4. **Adjust Threshold** = by moving orange arrow or knob. Pull it down until the "GR" reaches no more than -1 to -3 dB.
5. **Adjust Ratio** = Generally no more than 4.0 to 1.
6. **Adjust Gain** (or Make Up Gain) = so the "OUT" meter is no lower than the "IN" meter.
 - a. Usually "**+1.0**"
7. For right now, ignore "Knee", "Attack", and "Release"
8. **LISTEN!** You probably can't tell a difference until you "BYPASS" (take it away).
9. **AFTER EVERY Compressor MOVE** = **Toggle** (click/unclick) "**BYPASS**" to compare:
(Keyboard shortcut = ⌘+ Click Insert)
10. Does it help? If not, make a change or delete it.

REFERENCE AUDIO Steps

11. Choose your reference audio for your song. In your Mix #2 and Mix #4, you should already have reference song choices in the PT session. If not, they can be found in your session folder.
12. If they aren't in your session, import them and put them on the right side of your MASTER.
13. **Level Match them**. Listen to the overall volume of your current MIX BUS. Then solo the reference tracks and turn them down to match your current volume.
14. **Choose** the track that is most similar to your song, and you like the best.
15. Now you can choose to **focus on any aspect of your mix**, and compare it to the pro version. It could be lead vocal, kick, snare, bass volume, kick and bass mix, EQ on anything, amount of reverb or delay on any instrument, etc.
16. **MIX SECRET** = I usually choose and import my reference track during Mix Prep. But for your first mixes, it's easier to think about it now.
17. **MIX SECRET** = As your mix gets louder, you will need to adjust your reference volume to match.