

Name _____

RA2 Mix- Step #7 = Automation

Circle one: **Mix 2:** Back/Blue **Mix 4:** Above **Due by Wednesday, May 13**

Need help? Watch video in **COS Hinds Stuff > COS PT11 Mix & Master Hal Leonard > Videos folder> "Hal PT11...10 Automation"**

1. FINALIZING YOUR MIX

2. It's time to listen through your entire song to get an overview ("listener's" view). Have a paper and pen. Make a vertical line down the page.
3. Listen through the ENTIRE song without stopping. Anything that sticks out/bugs you in any way- write it down in the left column. Don't stop and fix the problem- just write it down.
4. Now, listen through the entire song again. Write any distractions in the right lane.
5. Compare the columns. Anything in both columns should be corrected now- likely with automation (below). If it's only in one column, ignore it for now.
6. After you go and fix all items that were listed in both columns, go back to step 2 and do it again until you can listen through the entire song and not notice any distractions.
7. **MIX SECRET** = if you have the time, I like to listen to it on the secondary speakers as well.
8. **MIX SECRET** = Also, if you have the time, I like to listen through it while doing other things (i.e. driving, eating, getting dressed, etc.) like the listeners will. When you listen through it 3+ times, and don't notice distractions, you're ready to "master" out your mix.

9. AUTOMATE VOLUME, PAN, MUTE

10. To edit **automation** = **Select a track/Clip** = Click the **track header name**, or **clip**
11. **Then, EITHER** =
 - a. click the **minus (-) button** to toggle "**Volume**" automation view on and off,
 - b. **OR**, on the track header, click "**waveform**" and choose "**Volume**".
 - c. **OR**, click the **bottom triangle** on the **left color band** of the **track header** to open an "**Automation Lane**" below the waveform.
12. Once you can see the automation "line", you can edit it in several ways.
13. Must use "**Smart Tool**": Drag to "Select" a note(s). Then place your cursor above the automation line, and click and drag up or down. Pro Tools adds 4 "break points" on the line = the first and last to anchor the current position, and the middle two that can be moved. All the points may be dragged to adjust or fine tune.
14. To delete a break point(s) = drag a selection across the points you want to delete, and press "delete". Or hold down option + click the point.
15. To insert one "break point" at a time, either:
16. In "**Grabber Tool**" mode, mouse over the "volume automation line", and the cursor now becomes a hand with a single pointer-finger extended. Anywhere you click on the line, a "break point" will be added.
17. OR, in "Smart Tool" mode, hold down the **⌘** + Click anywhere on the line to add a "break point".

18. AUTOMATE PLUGINS

19. **To automate plug-in parameters** = On any plug-in:
20. click the "**Automation Menu**" icon, below the word "**Auto**". It brings up a dialog box.
21. Click any parameter on the left side, and "Add" them to the right column. Click "OK".
22. Now, on any track with that plug in on it, when you click the "track view selector" in the edit window, instead of just "Volume", "Mute", and "Pan"; it will now show the other parameters.
23. **MIX SECRET** = Once you are happy with your automation, you can protect it from accidental changes by clicking/highlighting the "**safe**" button on the pop-up track fader. To call it up, click the tiny fader on the "output" of the "I/O" in either window. Once clicked, it will turn green, and you will not be able to alter the automation. Un-click it to return to editing.
24. **MIX SECRET** = When you insert a bus (drum, reverb, mix bus, master, etc.), since there isn't any audio on it, in the edit window it automatically shows you the "Volume automation line".