

Composition: Electronic Media I

Fall 2014

Transparency: high-pass filter

1. When multiple sounds are occurring simultaneously, their combined frequencies can cause the overall sound to be “muddy” or unclear. To combat this, it is a good idea to add a little transparency to the overall sound. We can accomplish this by performing high-pass filtering on some (not all) of the individual regions in a particular area.
2. Find sounds in the area that are generally mid-range or high sounds. Performing a high-pass filter will remove low rumbling noise that is not a key characteristic of the overall sound area. Removing this low noise can bring focus and clarity to the sound we want the listener to hear, and the low noise is no longer competing with the lower frequencies of other regions in the area.
3. This will work on high sounds as well. If a sound has a frequency of 1,200 Hz, a high-pass with a cutoff at 300 Hz is likely to clarify the sound without removing anything that you actually want to hear. Though most of what the listener is paying attention to is in the 1,200 Hz level, there could be some residual noise in the lower frequencies.
4. It is a good idea to leave some sound in a musical area untouched by the high-pass.
 - a. Doing a high-pass on a sound can cause it to sound “far away.”
 - b. If all sounds in a particular area suddenly were high-passed, our listener can become disoriented.
 - c. To counter this, leave some sounds in the area untouched by the high-pass.