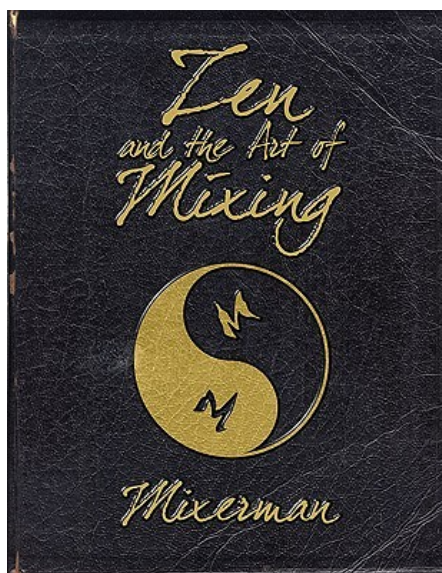




Zen and the Art of Mixing

Mixerman

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(Technical Reference). In his first book, *The Daily Adventures of Mixerman*, the author detailed the frustrating and often hilarious goings on during the process of recording a major-label band. Musicians, engineers, and producers laughed and cried at the crazy goings-on they'd never imagined or recognized all too well. Now Mixerman turns his razor-sharp gaze to the art of mixing and gives followers and the uninitiated reason to hope if not for logic and civility in the recording studio then at least for a good sounding record. With a firm commitment to art over technology and to maintaining a grasp of each, Mixerman outlines his own approach to recording success, based on his years mixing records in all genres of music for all kinds of artists, often under trying circumstances. As he states in his introduction to the new volume, "Even if you're not a professional mixer, even if you're a musician trying to mix your own work or a studio owner in a smaller market, you have your own set of pressures to deal with while you're mixing. Regardless of what those pressures are, it's important to identify and recognize them, if for no other reason than so you can learn to completely ignore them." But how? "That's where the Zen comes in."

Zen and the Art of Mixing Details

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From Reader Review Zen and the Art of Mixing for online ebook

Tucker Lemos says

The first thing I should say is that the use of Zen in the title of this book is simply a lie. Buddhism is mentioned in the introduction and perhaps once in the first chapter, and with flagrant lack of respect or knowledge.

However, as a book on mixing, it is complete and useful, as long as you aren't turned off by the author's constant self-congratulatory tone, mixed metaphors, and lack of attention to detail in writing.

I was, but again, I recognize that this book contains a huge amount of useful information, it's just very frustrating to get to.

Giel Montagne says

Not what I expected, even frustrating at times but nonetheless a good read.

Steven Gaskin says

Strange read this one. There is plenty of information on mixing techniques you can lift and apply to your projects, but the larger part of the book is concerned with how to be a better mixing engineer, rather than how to mix better. There's a lot of insight into the professional mixing process, and the mixers role in the business, specifically with respect to interactions with clients, which is all good, except that I don't want to be a professional mixing engineer - I just want to learn how to mix my own tracks.

So I finished the book not having learned as much technique as I hoped when I ordered it, but I do now have a different attitude to mixing. A better attitude, I think. Which is why this book is strange; the information is tailored to get professional engineers to be successful professional engineers, and as such, it's targeted at mixers far along in their education and careers, but I can't think of a better time to read this book than when you're starting out with mixing for the first time.

Great writing style too - very conversational and engaging.

Kindle formatting: Finally!!! An eBook that has clearly been formatted and proofed to a professional standard. Great layouts and use of images to recreate elaborate fonts from the print version. Was refreshing to see the back cover copy included as well.

Patrick H says

Skip the gear section unless you have tens of thousands to spend.

Will says

A necessary read for all in the business but I would argue that this book could benefit the artists the most. They constantly need to make decisions that propel their craft to the best possible outcome. Understanding the mixing process will help their communication, decision making and preparation.

Orcun Ayata says

Sonunda bitti. Sayesinde çok ?ey ö?rendim ve bir çok ?eyde kafam? açt?. Ama kitab?n ancak %70'ini anlayabildi?imdir diyebilirim. Genelde d??ar?da okudu?um için de e-kitap okuyucunun haf?zas?nda olmayan kelimelerin anlamlar?na bakmad?m. Ona ra?men ço?u ?eye bak?? aç?m? de?i?tirdi?ini söyleyebilirim. Kendime sayfalarca not ald?m.

Matt Buckley says

As someone who's been recording and mixing for roughly 15 years now, I'm clearly late to the party in reading this book. Regardless, it's definitely better late than never. The advice given in this book isn't mandatory, but it's invaluable. It's less about technical mixing technique and while the author does make some specific gear recommendations here and there (well out of most of our budgets), this book is more about mixing philosophy -- from what mindset to begin mixing to how to communicate with the client.

Fortunately, as someone who's been recording and mixing for a while, I had eventually come to a lot of these conclusions on my own, but I certainly would have come to them much quicker had I read this earlier. And even so, this book found a way to bring the important parts into greater focus, instilling confidence in the things that I've been doing right and offering a better direction for the things I may have missed along the way.

There are plenty of aspects to this book that won't apply to everyone, and there are some hard stances that are best taken with a grain of salt. But overall, every mixer -- no matter how old/young or experienced/inexperienced -- would benefit greatly from at least one read-through of this book. It's probably one that I will revisit again in a few years.

Izak Last says

My favorite piece of info is how every move you make changes the mix, both vertically inside of one part, and horizontally across the entire song.

Anton says

Brilliant book that cuts through the gear talk (while still including some useful examples) to the core musical, mental, and social issues in a very pragmatic style. Inspiring as hell. Great, very useful concrete artistic advice.

Pat says

so far so good. Short on step-by-step and long on concept and fell. Just what I need!

Justin Hall says

Some good points. More focused on Rock and leaning towards Pop Rock mixing, whereas I was looking for more of a general mixing book for Film, Podcasts, and Music in general.

Ben Hodson says

I can't think of a better way to present the mindset and methodology of mixing a record. This book is packed full of tips on almost every page about compression, reverb, plan of attack, fixing problems, and delivering radio-quality mixes that move people (emotionally and physically).

The only read it is not 5 stars is because of the second to last chapter in which Mixerman recommends occasional mixing while under the influence of Marijuana. He lost a ton of credibility due to the huge miscalculation of even including this recommendation. But if you can look past that serious misstep, the rest of the book rocks.

Jeffrey Anthony says

While not offering specific direction on how to say add EQ to a bass, the concepts discussed in this book were eye opening and helped give me better understanding of mixing than anything else I have read so far.

Andy Lowe says

I really do love Mixerman's approach to covering this material. My favorite part was at the end of the book where he encourages the reader NOT to take everything he says as truth; rather one should try these things out and draw his own conclusions. If you do decide to go a different direction, be able to back up your thinking. That's what matters.

I particularly enjoyed the section about dealing with clients. So many applicable sections to what I've personally dealt with.

I'll definitely be referencing this one in the future.

Jon says

This book is a fun read for audiophiles specifically. I found myself agreeing with the author at some points and learning something new at others. The author is obviously well versed in the recording studio and an industry pro, though at times closed minded in his opinions, which can be frustrating to read. Overall, I recommend this to anyone familiar with the industry, perhaps someone who is looking for knowledge scribed in a very conversational way.
