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| | |
|--|----|
| | 1 |
| | 1 |
| | 1 |
| | 1 |
| CD | 5 |
| | 5 |
| | 7 |
| | 8 |
| (Restoration) | 8 |
| | 9 |
| | 9 |
| | 9 |
| Mastering Before the Era of CD | 9 |
| Vynil Records | 10 |
| Cassette Tapes | 11 |
| Remastering | 11 |
| Analog Masters into Digital Masters | 11 |
| Restoration | 11 |
| Original Masters Required | 11 |
| <i>The concept of mastering has evolved over time, adapting to changes in the media market.</i> | 12 |
| | 13 |
| | 13 |
| | 13 |
| | 13 |

CD

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Dolby Volume, SMPTE RP200 85dB SPL 0VU
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0VU 가 Hi-Fi 85dB SPL

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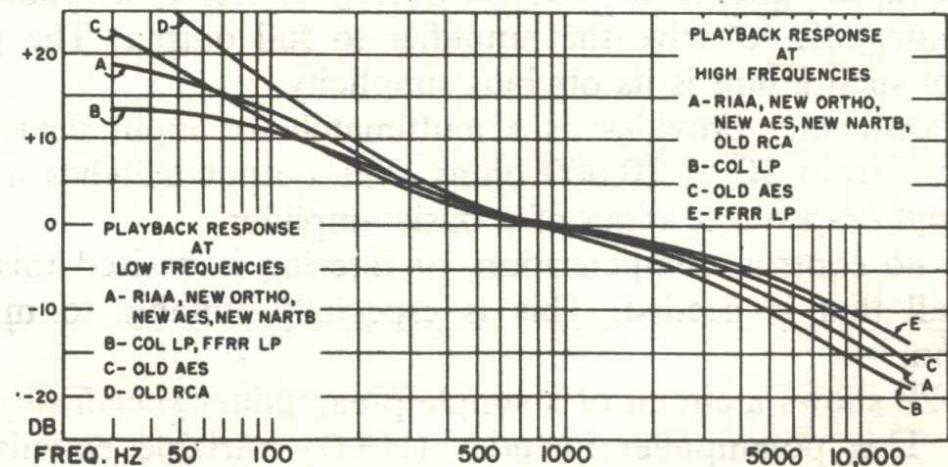
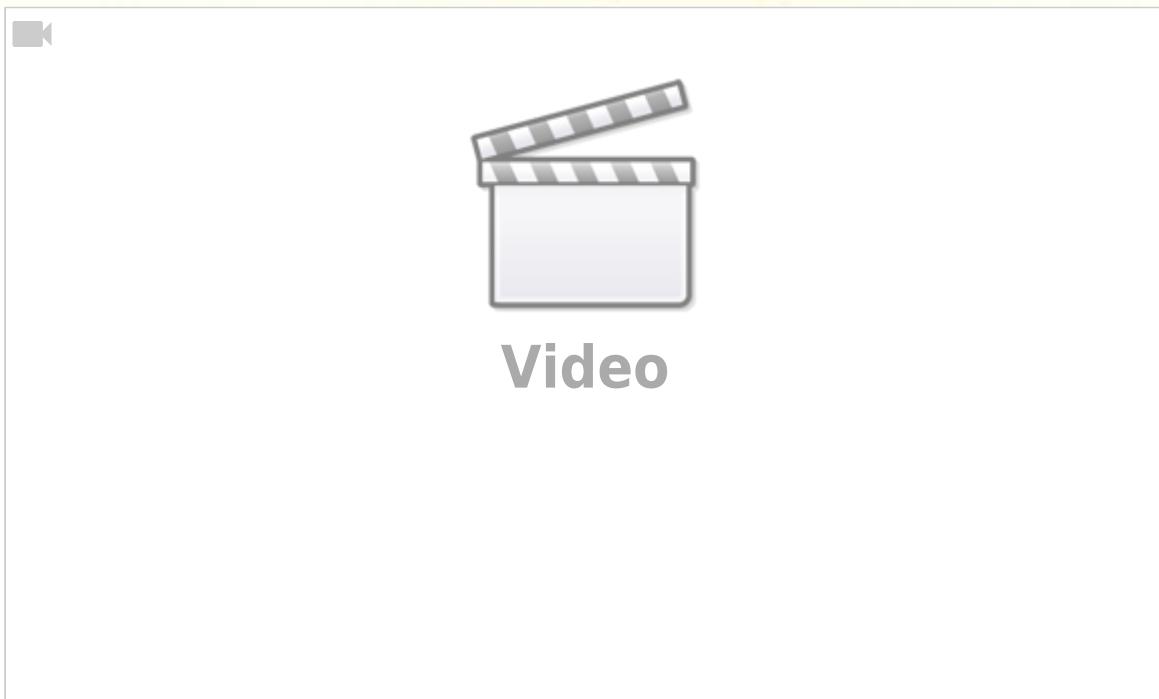
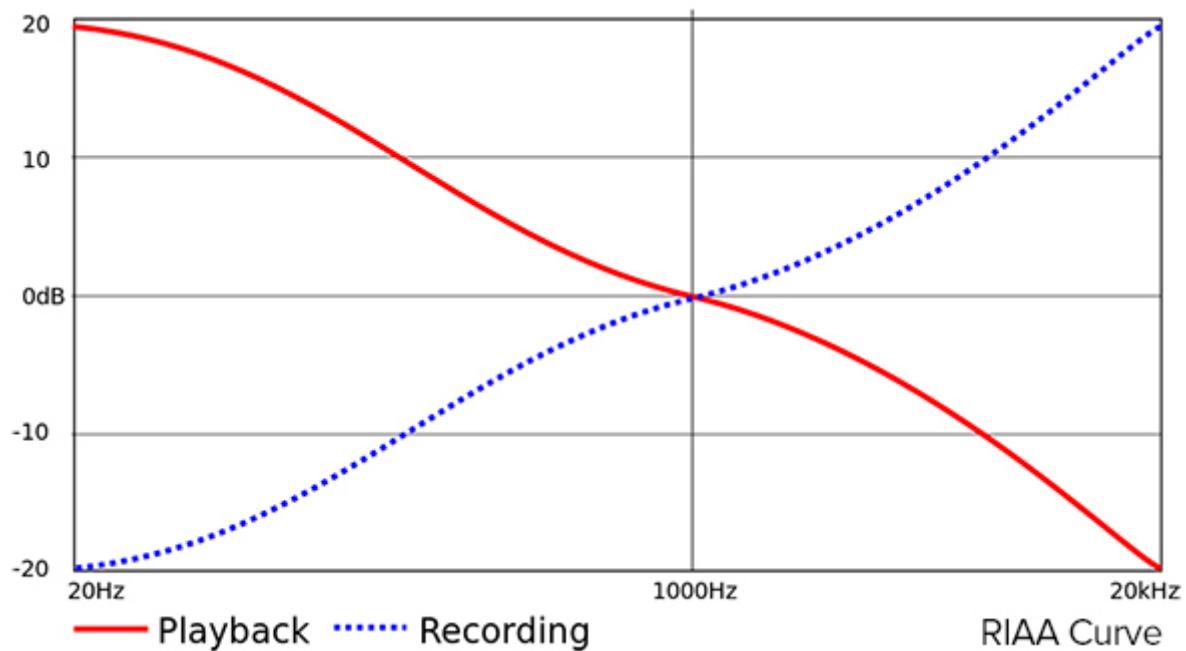


Fig. 5-27. Comparison of standard RIAA playback curve with some curves used before standard was adopted.



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RIAA

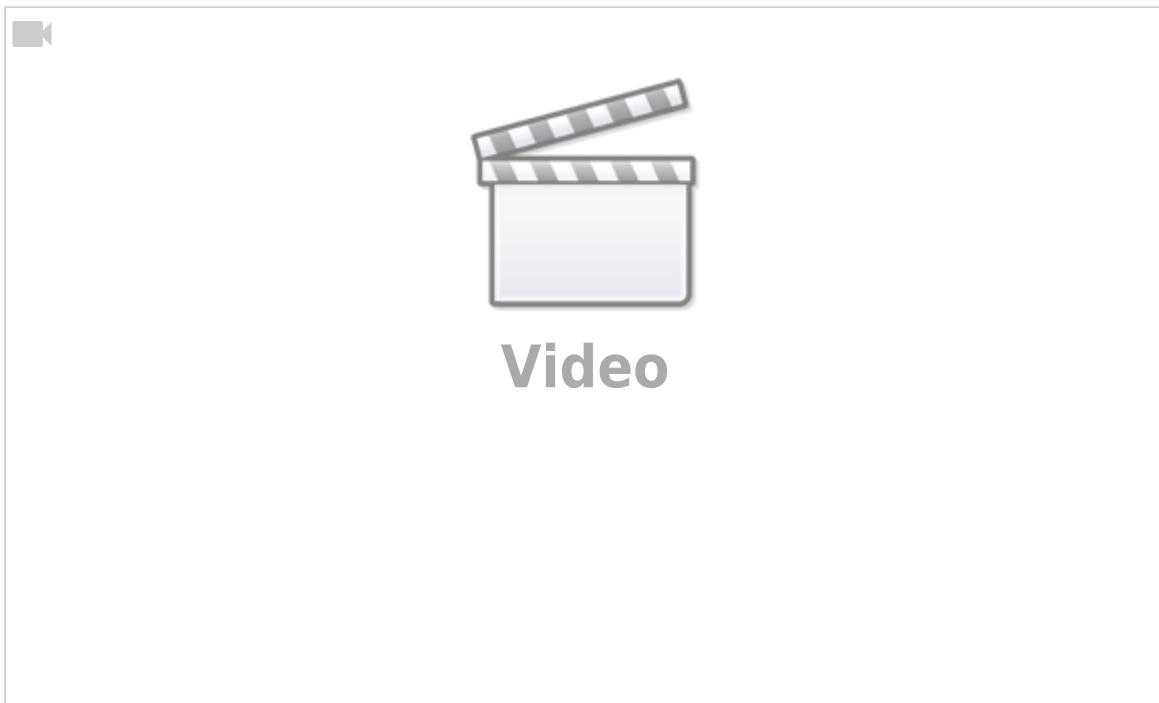


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70dB
77dB
가 ,
() / LAT/VERT
2)

Philips Sony

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CD가

CD

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Dolby Volume 85dB

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3)

(Restoration)

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RIAA_equalization

- 1 : <https://www.sonarworks.com/soundid-reference/blog/learn/the-history-of-mastering/>
- 2 : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_analog_and_digital_recording

Mastering Before the Era of CD

With the advent of the **CD** medium, numerous mastering studios emerged. However, it's worth noting that before the introduction of **CDs**, studios specialized solely in mastering were quite rare.

Of course, mastering work existed before this era.

The term “mastering” refers to the creation of a “master record” or a “master tape.” To facilitate the mass duplication of media, an initial master was first created, from which duplicate copies were obtained and subsequently sold in the market.

Recorded audio tracks were compiled into an album master, arranging the audio in the desired sequence. This album master was then used to produce a single “master tape” or “master record” from which mass duplications were made.

Of course, nowadays, it's quite uncommon for multiple songs to be packed into a single medium. The practice of placing an entire album on tape or **CD** is disappearing. In the digital single era we're

currently in, the concept of mastering has indeed evolved significantly.

Regarding sound volume, music was produced at 85dB according to Dolby standard levels, recorded at OVU, and the master was created to match the OVU recording. Some engineers did use techniques like equalizers and compressors to enhance fidelity, but OVU remained the level standard. The cassette tapes duplicated from these masters were played back at 85dB on car audio or high-fidelity audio systems, and that was the extent of it.

Vynil Records

In the era of vinyl records, the key to creating a master lay in ensuring that the resulting record could faithfully reproduce sound without the needle jumping.

When recording music in a studio, it was done onto reel-to-reel tape recorders. As a result, the original sound from the studio always existed as reel tape data. To make vinyl records for mass distribution, this sound from the reel tape was transferred onto a “master record” disc. This master record disc was then duplicated like printing copies, allowing the production of vinyl records for the public.

However, if the sound information from the reel tape was transferred directly onto the master record disc, there could be a problem with the needle jumping due to the low-frequency information. To prevent this issue, the low frequencies were attenuated during the recording onto the record disc. During playback, these low frequencies were then boosted to prevent needle jumping. The equalization curve used during this process is known as the RIAA curve, and the equipment used to restore the attenuated low-frequency information during playback is called a phono preamp.

Among the various phono curves that existed, the standard one was the RIAA curve.

In fact, during a time when numerous phono curves and phono preamps existed, and when standards for the sound level of vinyl records varied, it could be considered a rather challenging era for music consumers.

The dynamic range of vinyl records, including the vinyl master record, is approximately 70dB. However, reel-to-reel tape master recorders had a dynamic range of around 77dB. To fit the entire sound onto vinyl master records, compressors were sometimes used. The Fairchild compressor, for instance, had a switch called LAT/VERT that allowed control over the vertical/horizontal movement of the record player stylus (needle).

Transferring the sound quality recorded on reel-to-reel tape in the studio directly onto vinyl records was not an easy task. As a result, enjoying the original sound recorded on reel-to-reel tape masters was a very challenging endeavor.

Audio systems for playing records were not inexpensive, often large in size, and listening to music outside of where they were installed was quite difficult.

Cassette Tapes

After the development of cassette tapes by Philips and Sony, music could be rapidly distributed to the public due to the cost-effective nature of this medium compared to vinyl records.

Even during the era of cassette tapes, mastering was still the process of creating a “master.”

In addition, [Dolby](#) introduced a new standard called the [Dolby Noise Reduction System](#) to enhance the sound quality of cassette tape playback. As a result, many cassette tapes and players featured the [Dolby](#) System or [Dolby](#) NR function.

Remastering

Analog Masters into Digital Masters

During the time when [CDs](#) were emerging, many albums were released only on vinyl records or cassette tapes and were not available on [CD](#) or digital formats. To re-release such albums in digital media for profit, they needed to undergo the remastering process [again](#). These albums are often referred to as “remastered” versions.

It should be noted that master recordings created in an era without dedicated mastering studios were originally designed to match the [85dB](#) standard of the [Dolby](#) Standard. Therefore, remastering work is necessary to align the volume [levels](#) of these albums with contemporary releases. Some people may not appreciate the changes in sound that occur during this process.

Restoration

Currently, the concept of remastering also includes the restoration of analog original masters that may have deteriorated in quality over time.

Original Masters Required

To perform remastering, it is essential to have access to the analog original master recordings.

The author once received a phone call from someone who wanted to know if they could personally “remaster” their favorite music to their liking. The response was, “We don’t do that.” It appears that the individual had a misunderstanding of the concept of remastering.

- Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RIAA_equalization

The concept of mastering has evolved over time, adapting to changes in the media market.

In accordance with the trends of the era, audio engineering has seen many concepts undergo transformations.

Today, the concept of mastering has somewhat shifted. It seems more appropriate to call it mastering when audio is finally rendered in a digital media file format to achieve the target loudness [level](#).

- Reference: <https://www.sonarworks.com/soundid-reference/blog/learn/the-history-of-mastering/>
- Reference2: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_analog_and_digital_recording

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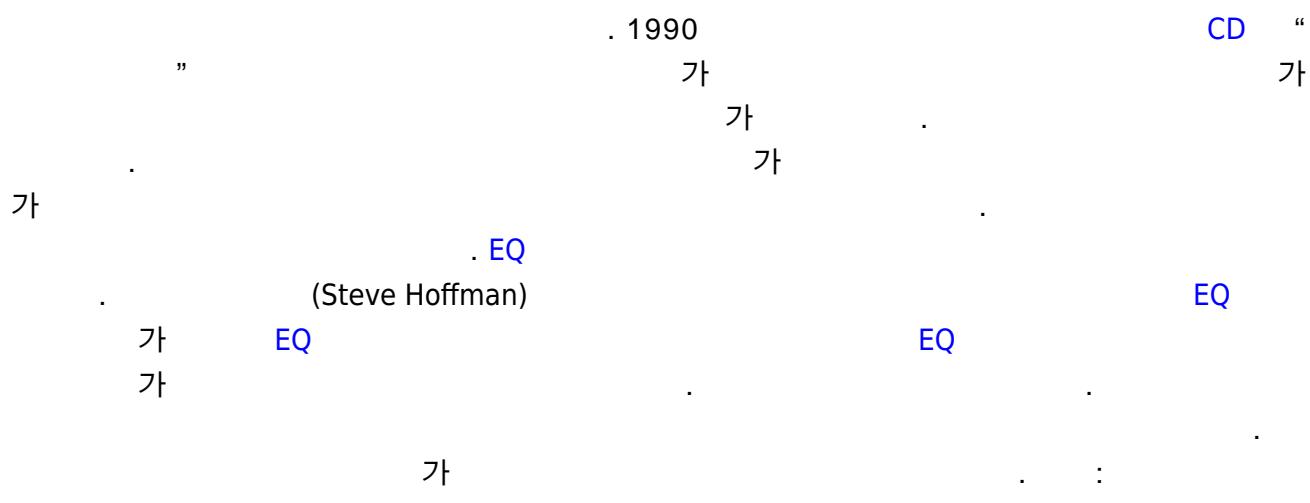
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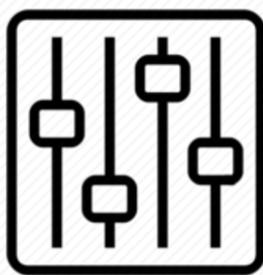
2)

CD 96dB

3)



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remaster>



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