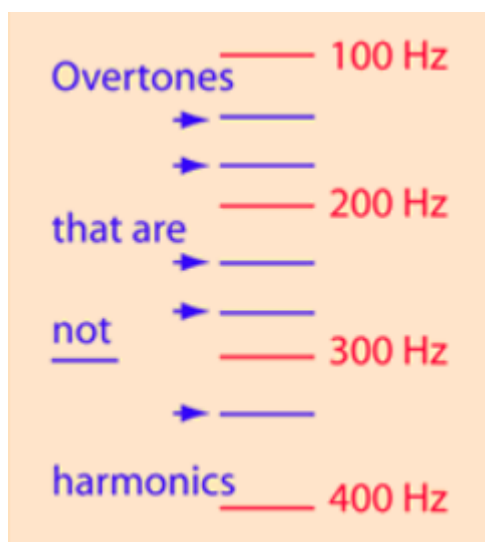




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Overtone	5
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Overtone

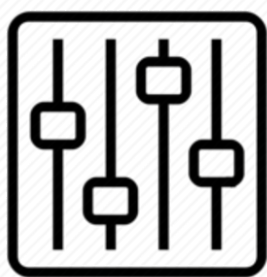
Harmonics refers to the frequency components that correspond to integer multiples of the fundamental frequency, while “overtones” encompass frequency components that are not necessarily integer multiples of the fundamental frequency. In the case of musical instruments with definite pitch (such as most melodic instruments), the timbre is typically expressed through a combination of harmonics and few non-harmonic components. However, for instruments without a definite pitch (such as most percussion instruments), their timbre is characterized by a significant presence of overtones, including both harmonic and non-harmonic frequencies. Due to the substantial presence of non-harmonic components in the timbre of non-pitched instruments, discerning a specific pitch can be challenging, resulting in a sound quality that lacks a clear pitch.

For instance, in the context of musical instruments like drums, the timbre comprises not only harmonics and overtones but also a substantial number of non-harmonic overtones. These non-harmonic overtones play a significant role in defining the timbral characteristics of drums.

In the context of music and acoustics, the terms “harmonics” and “overtones” are sometimes used interchangeably, despite subtle differences in their meanings.

1)

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