

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Sound Production: Multi-track Recording

Unit code: DJ2F 34

Unit purpose: The purpose of this Unit is to familiarise candidates with the principles and practice of multi-track recording and production and is designed to allow the candidate to develop skills in audio engineering within typical multi-track recording studio environments. This unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop the skills and knowledge required to work in the sound production field.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- ♦ Engineer the production of multi-track recordings

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have some knowledge of sound and recording techniques. This could be evidenced for example by undertaking the Units Sound Production Theory 1, Sound Production Practice 1 and Digital Audio Workstations 1. Candidates should also have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of core skill Communication at Higher level or by possession of Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ Communication Unit (SCQF level 5/6).

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit e.g. Working with Others, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This is a mandatory unit included in the framework for HNC/D Sound Production. It is recommended that it is taught and assessed within the context of the particular group award to which it contributes. If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: There is one assessment for this unit, in which candidates will individually plan, produce, and evaluate a significant multi-track recording on an appropriate medium. Candidates must produce a log/production file containing written evidence of planning, procedures and sources of acquired material. Candidates must also produce an evaluation of the finished product that must contain an analysis of the effectiveness of the strategies and procedures employed.

Where this unit is offered as part of an integrated course of work, the evidence requirements can be contained within other coursework documentation, however, clear guidelines should be issued to candidates as to evidence requirements for this Unit within the overall project assessment requirements.

Assessment should be carried out in supervised conditions sufficient to ensure confidence in the authenticity of candidates' submissions.

It is unlikely however that the practical approach for this Unit would be successfully implemented without a structured series of formative practice opportunities.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome

Engineer the production of multi-track recordings

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Plan the production of a multi-track recording
- ◆ Select appropriate equipment for a multi-track recording
- ◆ Create a multi-track recording
- ◆ Technical operations for multi-track recording
- ◆ Appropriate documentation
- ◆ Health and Safety regulations
- ◆ Evaluate the multi-track recording and process

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ plan multi-track recordings
- ◆ correctly select appropriate microphones and DI boxes for recording
- ◆ demonstrate the correct procedure with specific reference to gain structure, to configure the recording medium to produce a multi-track recording
- ◆ demonstrate the procedure to correctly establish talkback communications
- ◆ demonstrate the procedure to correctly set up performers monitoring
- ◆ demonstrate the correct procedure for monitoring playback to ensure quality
- ◆ successfully record signals onto tracks on a multi-track recorder ensuring the resultant recording is undistorted and acceptable in terms of level and clarity
- ◆ demonstrate the procedure to correctly perform overdubs
- ◆ demonstrate the procedure to correctly perform punch in/out recording
- ◆ demonstrate the effective use of dynamic control within a multi-track recording using audio processors
- ◆ demonstrate the effective use of time domain effects processing to enhance a performer's monitoring
- ◆ demonstrate a clear understanding of patch bay configurations and its uses
- ◆ demonstrate correct procedures interfacing external equipment

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sound Production: Multi-track Recording

- ◆ demonstrate accurate synchronisation of a multi-track recorder with at least one external device
- ◆ demonstrate the correct procedure to power up and power down the recording equipment
- ◆ successfully log and store media
- ◆ operate technical equipment in accordance with recommended instructions and Health and Safety guidelines
- ◆ keep a log of activities in the course of making the recording
- ◆ complete track sheets and media documentation correctly
- ◆ evaluate multi-track recording sessions

The completed multi-track must contain evidence of:

- ◆ a minimum of twelve discrete audio recorded tracks
- ◆ a minimum of two overdubbing stages

An assessor's checklist must be used to record the required assessment information.

The assessment of this Outcome will be undertaken in supervised conditions.

Evidence to be retained:

- ◆ multi-track recording on appropriate medium
- ◆ log/production file of planning, procedures and sources of acquired material
- ◆ written evaluation of finished product

Assessment guidelines

Candidates need to be shown how to fully engineer a multi-track recording session and then be given time to familiarise themselves with using the recording studio and its equipment.

Candidates who do not achieve a satisfactory standard should be given an opportunity for reassessment.

The multi-track recording session(s) should be relevant to this level of programme and should be of a genre and/or style made familiar to the candidates through demonstration and practice sessions prior to assessment. Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that they would provide the candidate with sufficient opportunity to meet the evidence requirements of the Unit.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DJ2F 34

Unit title: Sound Production: Multi-track Recording

Superclass category: KG

Date of publication: September 2004

Version: 02

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Word Count.	02/06/11

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Sound Production: Multi-track Recording

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The unit is designed to equip the candidates with the skills and knowledge required to undertake unsupervised multi-track recording sessions safely, efficiently and with due regard to professional protocol.

The skills acquired by the candidate to achieve the Unit will require the candidate to have a full understanding of the recording and multi-tracking system. Providers may wish to use the unit as proof of a candidate's ability to book and operate a multi-track recording facility unsupervised.

The unit should be assessed in an appropriate recording environment with an emphasis on replicating a professional multi-track recording set up. The emphasis of the Unit should be on achieving the best possible quality of production, within the constraints of time and available resources.

For demonstrating effective use of multi-track synchronisation various methods can be used with the multi-track as master or slave. A common procedure would be to have a sequencer package synchronized with the multi-track by the use of MIDI time code. This approach is common in studio environments and allows accurate use of a click track generated by a sound module, or additional tracking with MIDI sound sources. The use of MIDI should not be counted for the final track count. Other synchronisation approaches could be implemented depending on the resources of the centre. It is recommended that the recording and utilisation of longitudinal time code is not employed for this Unit unless it is standard operating procedure within the centre.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is designed to be practical in nature and, as such, the keeping of an accurate log book/production file containing all relevant paperwork will be an important part of assessment evidence. This Unit could be used to enable candidates to acquire multi-track material for use in other Units e.g. Multi-track mixing. It is strongly recommended that the Unit be assessed using one assessment based on carrying out a project to a given brief. Candidates will also be required to provide a written evaluation that makes reference to the quality of the work produced the process of recording (description of process, justification of devices used and configuration).

Lecturers will also need to record achievement of element briefs on an assessor's checklist.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Open learning

Aspects of this unit could be delivered by distance or open learning. However, due to the significant practical content of this unit and the need to underpin the theoretical elements in a practical context, it is unlikely open learning would be practicable.

For further information and advice please refer to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Multi-track Recording

This Unit is designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills to enable you to create multi-track recordings using the tools of the modern recording studio. You should learn how to:

- ◆ Plan the production of a multi-track recording
- ◆ Select appropriate equipment for a multi-track recording
- ◆ Create a multi-track recording
- ◆ Manage technical operations for multi-track recording
- ◆ Produce appropriate documentation
- ◆ Work within the parameters of Health and Safety regulations
- ◆ Evaluate the multi-track recording and process

There is one Unit assessment, which will take the form of a substantial multi-track recording in which you will be required to plan, produce and evaluate the audio material. The evidence required for this Unit is the multi-track master submitted on the chosen medium and a completed assessor's checklist, both of which demonstrate that you have met the evidence requirements of the Unit.