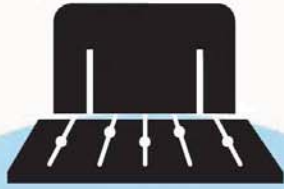


SOUND ENGINEER



SALARY

Junior sound engineer ★★☆☆

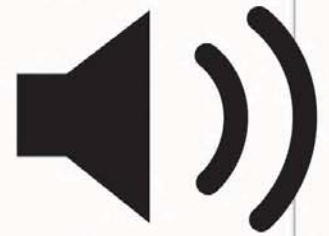
Experienced sound engineer ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Opportunities in a range of industries, including broadcasting, music, TV, and computing and advertising • A growing sector continually evolving with development of new technology

JOB DESCRIPTION

Sound engineers work with musicians and film or TV producers to make high-quality recordings of music, speech, and other sounds. They oversee recording sessions, usually in a studio but sometimes on location. They set up microphones and other equipment, record different instruments or voices separately, and then mix these different recordings (known as tracks) together electronically to craft the desired overall sound.

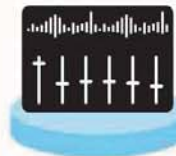


CAREER PATHS

Formal training in sound engineering or music technology is an advantage in this competitive industry, but some studios and broadcasting companies take on talented trainees straight out of high school. You will need to learn continually to keep up to date with digital recording technologies if you are to be considered for more senior and creative roles.

TRAINEE You may be able to find an employer to take you on as a trainee. This route is very competitive, and you will need good grades in mathematics, physics, and computer science. Any experience you may have from working on school productions or amateur gigs will be useful.

GRADUATE A degree in sound or acoustic engineering gives you an excellent foundation in the technical and creative aspects of this career.



MIXING ENGINEER

Mixes or remixes music or sound. Mixing engineers edit the sound and manipulate the volume and pitch of individual tracks to achieve a finished mix (an electronic blend of music tracks or sounds) with the desired qualities.



SOUND ENGINEER As a sound engineer you record and mix sounds to realize the creative vision of the artist or film or TV producer. With experience, you can go on to manage a studio, or move into specialized roles in TV, film, or music production.

SKILLS GUIDE



Good team-working skills to deal with artists and producers, often under intense time pressure.



A good knowledge of operating a mixing console and other equipment to set sound levels.



Scrupulous attention to detail for monitoring audio signals and keeping a log of all recordings.



Physical strength for setting up equipment in a studio or on location at concerts and events.



Excellent computer skills to operate state-of-the-art digital systems for recording music.



Flexibility to work the long hours needed to accommodate performers and events.



SOUND DESIGNER Takes responsibility for the entire sound of a production, which may be a film, video, or computer game. Sound engineers create and edit music and sound effects, using a range of digital equipment.



MUSIC PRODUCER Brings together artists, songwriters, and technical know-how to create an original recorded work. Many music producers work for record companies or are hired by artists who are looking for a distinctive sound.

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **BROADCAST ENGINEER** Sets up and operates the sophisticated electronic systems used in TV, radio, and other digital media broadcasts. Broadcast engineers work as part of a team with producers and presenters in recording studios, control rooms, or on location in all weather conditions. They also oversee the updating and repair of equipment, installing hardware, software, and other digital systems.
- ▶ **LIGHTING ENGINEER** Prepares, sets up, and operates the lighting equipment for TV, film, or video productions, and live events, such as concerts and theater productions. An excellent understanding of the effects achieved with different types of lighting is essential for any lighting engineer.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Electronics • Sound technology • Music • Physics • Mathematics • Computers



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A relevant degree is desirable, but good technical skills and experience can get you started in this career.



LIFESTYLE Hours can be long and irregular. Sound engineers may be expected to work at night when studio time is less expensive.



LOCATION Sound engineers may work in a studio or on location at concerts, on a film set, or at another live event. They may have to travel extensively.



THE REALITIES The work can be demanding, but working as part of a creative team with talented artists can be highly rewarding.