

Advice on Editing Sound Effects for Sound Effect Libraries

After recording a fair amount of raw audio intended for sound effects then it is time to edit these recordings. In order to edit your recordings well use an audio editing software that provides, eqs, normalization, fade ins/outs, and the ability to cut. Useful freewares can be found on the web and there are a plethora of digital audio workstations (DAWs) for sale that will allow you to edit.

Open your audio software and import all of your new raw .wav recordings. Take a large batch of 40 or so .wav files to import and solo each track, thus muting the others, as you work on each file one by one, though you may of course choose the less efficient method of importing one at a time. At this point you can begin editing your recordings and then mix them into finished sound effect products. The advice that follows provides useful information on creating the most valuable sound effects possible from you .wav recordings.

1. The first step is to normalize each sample. This makes the audio as loud as possible by increasing the amplitude of the highest point on your recording to the highest point possible.
2. Second, use eq to cut out any unnecessary frequencies that may interfere with the quality of your sound. For example, you may have a recording of a bird chirp which also has an outside air conditioning unit humming mixed into the sound. To fix this problem, you can cut out all frequencies below 2,000 Hz which will take out the AC but keep the bird's higher tones.
3. Once you've gotten a strong and clean as possible .wav file find a good starting point that beings clean and create a nice ending either through a fade out or even better letting the sound fade out itself giving 1-2 seconds of air after the sound effect for the natural reverb to ring out.
5. Mix down a 48k 24bit stereo .wav file to be used for video productions. Such 48k 24bit stereo files earn the most money as they are valued by video editors and producers for their higher quality.
5. In order to increase your amount of products make as many versions of each recording as possible. For example, if a recording has a cat meowing 25 times, make sound effects with one meow, two meows, 5 meows, 8 meows etc. while changing up the combination of meows. This process will easily give you 50 or more sound effects from one sequence of cat meows.
6. Use pitch shift and other effects to create new versions of each sound to increase your number of products. For example, a burp sound effect could be pitch shifted down to create a monster burp sound and pitch shifted up to create a more childlike sounding burp.

With some prior knowledge of audio editing, one can follow the above tips to take raw audio recordings and create professional quality sound effects that can be licensed for profit to media creators.

About the Author

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