ESSENTIAL LIVE SOUND TRAINING USER MANUAL
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1. HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW OF ELST

The Essential Live Sound Training curriculum is made of three components. Each of these is an important part of understanding the whole process of running sound for live music.

Technical Videos
Mixing Demos
Archived Webinars

Technical Videos
The Technical Videos are the core of this training. They are broken down into bite-sized lessons so each video covers one aspect of the audio system — this way it’s easy to jump around and find exactly which topic you’re looking for. With helpful diagrams and quizzes for each video, the learning process has been streamlined so it’s easy to absorb the information.
### 1. High-Level Overview of ELST

**Technical Videos:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1 - Audio</th>
<th>Section 6 - Wireless Audio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(13 videos)</td>
<td>(5 videos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is where we cover some fundamental audio concepts that are critical to understanding live sound.</td>
<td>A quickly changing field, wireless audio has some fundamental concepts we look at here to ensure success.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 2 - Inputs</th>
<th>Section 7 - Digital Consoles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(10 videos)</td>
<td>(6 videos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We discuss all the mics and DI's that take the sound from stage to the inputs of the mixing console.</td>
<td>We see how digital consoles have revolutionized the workflow for audio in live music with functionality you can’t find on analog consoles.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 3 - Mixing</th>
<th>Section 8 - Connections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(23 videos)</td>
<td>(7 videos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our longest section, this looks at both the functions of a console and some techniques we use for mixing live.</td>
<td>We discuss how every piece of gear, analog or digital, is connected in our audio system to ensure the signals flow correctly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 4 - Outputs</th>
<th>Section 9 - Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(8 videos)</td>
<td>(15 videos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is where we take our mixes and send them out of the console to a speaker system for the audience or performers to hear.</td>
<td>We look at the complexities of professional speaker systems and how we control them with a system processor.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 5 - Monitors</th>
<th>Section 10 - Big Picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(9 videos)</td>
<td>(7 videos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A critical aspect of live sound, this section covers some concepts and techniques of mixing for the performers on stage.</td>
<td>This is the collection of topics that don’t quite fit into the other sections but look at big picture concepts in live sound.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mixing Demos

While the Technical Videos break down the entire audio system and show you how each part of the audio system works, the Mixing Demos show you how to apply these concepts to a real mix. We use tracks from a live show to demonstrate what each instrument sounds like and some settings I use to build a solid mix.

I do these demos on an Avid S6L, which is a great console that I use all the time on tour. And even though other consoles have different layouts, you still learn how to use professional techniques to get your mix sounding great.

Our musical examples include some pretty common instruments for live music, including vocals. Here’s a list of the Demos:

- Virtual Soundcheck
- Getting Sounds
- Monitors
- Drums
- Bass and Guitar
- Keys and Sax
- Vocals
- FX
- VCAs
- Overall Mix
Archived Q+A Webinars

One night after a show I was sitting around talking with a colleague about gear, like usual. She said, “You know, this is what your students really need to hear — just us chatting informally about audio and music!” I thought it was a great idea so I started interviewing other audio engineers for **Live Q+A Webinars**.

All of these Webinars are archived as part of the ELST curriculum. This is a great way to hear us get conversational about live sound, touring, gear, travel, and all kinds of other topics. We’ve had some heavy-duty guests who have toured with major artists and have a ton of experience to share.
2. NOTEWORTHY FEATURES OF THIS TRAINING

There are a number of features that help make this training an incredible experience for members as well as a flexible educational tool for people of all skill levels.

Self-Paced

There is no set amount of time it takes to complete Essential Live Sound Training — it’s totally up to you how long you spend with it. I’ve seen people with a ton of audio experience go through it really fast. I’ve also had people sign up for several months and work carefully through each video with all the quizzes and really soak up all the knowledge.

This course is good either way, though! If you have prior live sound experience this will help you solidify the concepts and fill in any gaps. If you’re starting from scratch and are brand new to live sound, you can work through the lessons at your own pace and take advantage of all the resources included in this training.

Study Guide

Even though it’s self-paced, we developed a 6-week Study Guide that makes a great roadmap for this course. It goes through the curriculum at a pretty solid speed, giving you a good amount of material to focus on each week. This is a great way to set goals while you move through the material.

The Study Guide is also really handy because it lists the exact topics for each video. If you have any questions about a very specific audio subject, you can easily use it to find the video you’re looking for. Remember, these videos are designed as bite-sized pieces of information, so you can absolutely skip around if you want to!

Once you join the training, you’ll receive the guide as part of your welcome materials.
2. NOTEWORTHY FEATURES OF THIS TRAINING

Teachable

This training is hosted on Teachable, which is a video hosting service designed specifically for online courses. It has a ton of great features and you can find more info on how to log in, manage your account, and navigate the Teachable platform in the next part of this manual.

iOS App

One of the cool features of Teachable is their iOS app. You’re able to view any Teachable school (including, of course, ours) on-the-go with any iPhone or other iOS device. Just search “Teachable” in the App Store. Not available on Android, sorry.

You can learn more here: https://support.teachable.com/hc/en-us/articles/115000766167-Use-the-iOS-App-as-a-Student

Email Availability

One of the benefits to being a member of this training is direct email access to me. I’m always excited to interact with members so I can learn what you’re most interested in. I think I’ve given some of my best advice directly to people via email! Just reach out any time at scott@theproductionacademy.com (please allow 48 hours for a reply).
2. NOTEWORTHY FEATURES OF THIS TRAINING

Monthly or Annual Pricing

This course is offered as a subscription service, which lets us keep the cost of entry lower for everyone. Most people join as monthly subscribers and stay until they are done with the course. Others, like music venues, churches, or other institutions who need full-time access to training, may choose the discounted annual option instead.
3. LOGIN / ACCOUNT / NAVIGATE : TEACHABLE

The Production Academy uses the video hosting service Teachable for all our courses. This is a really great service that helps us organize the curriculum, create accounts with login for students, manage all the billing, and provide resources like Quizzes and the iOS app.

Any time you’re on a page that starts with school.theproductionacademy.com, you’re on the Teachable section of our website.

**Login** - To log in and see the courses you’ve registered for, head to our “Courses” page: school.theproductionacademy.com. Then click “Login” at the upper right-hand corner of the page.

**If you don’t have an account**, click on the class you want to register for and follow the instructions to enroll. Or, click “Sign Up” at the upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions to create an account.

For more thorough instructions, see this link: [https://support.teachable.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004257811-Log-In-and-Access-Your-Course](https://support.teachable.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004257811-Log-In-and-Access-Your-Course)
Account - When you register for any of our courses for the first time, you’re actually creating an account in Teachable, which is called a “myTeachable” account. Here’s a detailed description of what this entails:
https://support.teachable.com/hc/en-us/articles/115000359807-Using-myTeachable-Guide-for-Students

You can edit your profile and billing information directly on the Teachable site — just log in and click the avatar on the upper right-hand corner of the page:

To cancel your subscription, login and click the avatar on the upper right-hand corner of the page, then select “Manage Subscriptions”. This shows you all active subscriptions which you can cancel at any time you wish.

To request a refund, just email me at scott@theproductionacademy.com. I’m very flexible and will try to accommodate any reasonable requests. Of course, the 30-day no-questions-asked refund policy applies to all new ELST members.

If you’re having trouble purchasing a course or with a payment, try the advice in this article:
https://support.teachable.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004711552-Payment-Issues

Navigate - The Teachable interface is pretty straightforward, but there are some cool features that are included. You can track your progress through the curriculum, adjust the video settings, comment on any of the lectures, or take advantage of the quiz at the end of each video. Here’s more info:
https://support.teachable.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004258771-Navigate-and-View-Course-Content

If you have any issues at all with navigating the course, or with any other issue regarding Teachable, please email me right away and I will work with them to resolve the issue.
4. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is this course right for me?** Well, are you involved in live music in any way? Then, YES! Satisfied members of this course have included everyone from amateur musicians who have zero audio knowledge to touring audio professionals who are here to solidify their skills.

Since this course is self-paced and organized so you can choose whatever topic you want to focus on, it’s really perfect for a wide range of skill levels. But taken as a whole, it teaches you a complete set of skills that everyone involved with audio and live music should have.

**How long does this course take to complete?** This really depends on the level of your experience walking into this training. However, we have a 6-week Study Guide that is a good way to check your progress through the curriculum. For someone with a little prior audio knowledge, this is a good pace to follow.

**Do you offer a Certificate of Completion?** Yes! We are not an accredited institution so it’s not officially a diploma, but you are issued (upon request) a Certificate of Completion when you finish this training. You are welcome to use it for your resume or when applying for a job as an audio engineer.

**What if I’m unhappy with the training?** I would never want someone who doesn’t like the course to pay for it. If you try it out and aren’t satisfied with it, just email me in the first 30 days at scott@theproductionacademy.com and I will refund your payment right away.

**Do you offer a one-time course payment instead of a monthly/annual option?** No. This training is only offered as a subscription because it lets us keep the cost of entry low for everyone. If you can only afford one or two months, you’re still able to get access to some solid information without paying a huge course fee (which would be $697 for this course if we did a one-time payment).

**May I email you directly with any other questions I have?** Of course! I’ll get back to you as soon as I can: scott@theproductionacademy.com
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