

# CAREER IN SOUND DESIGNING AND MUSIC RECORDING

Suresh Verma

**M**ost of us feel that listening is easier than speaking. Good listening is not as easy as we think, rather it is a challenge. Listening process involve many steps like hearing, attending to the message it conveys, understanding and interpreting what was said, retaining and recalling the message after some time interval and responding message to the source of that message. As an exercise, just close your eyes for a minute and listen cautiously to the sounds that are floating in the environment all around you. Are you able to judge the proximity of different kind of sounds? Which sound is coming from distance and which one originate nearby? Can you easily distinguish one sound from another? If you enjoy listening and analysing voices of different people very minutely, enjoy variety of music beats, go on experimenting with different natural and artificial sounds, then you can dream to make your passion a career. Yes, you can make a career as a Sound designer or Audio Engineer or Creative Sound Designer or Technical Sound Designer. Who is a Sound Designer?

A sound designer is a creative person who generates and records sounds for media such as Films, Television, Video games, Online media, Advertisements, Animation, Music Albums, Radio and Theatre. In all these media products, he or she is responsible for the overall sound to ensure that



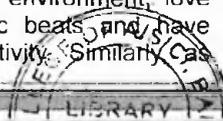
the audience or users receive a rich sensory experience. As such, they record, create sound effects, edit musical pieces, remove or add ambience in order to enhance excitement in a creative manner. A rational, real, exciting and interesting experience in audience of any media product comes with the visionary inputs made by the sound designer.

## Work Environment

As a sound designer, your main workplace is sound studio where you may create sounds using computers, MIDI and various software and sometimes using natural objects. You can enjoy this field if you are highly sensitive to your sound environment, love music, recall music beats, and have high level of creativity. Similarly, as

recording engineer you give shape to the sound of music albums. In a sound studio, you record, mix and edit sound by manipulation techniques, setting levels and choice of various microphones. Sound designers have full expertise on analog tape as well as digital multi track recording. They also attend meetings with other creative heads in order to ensure that vision of the project in hand gets realized. They work in a team environment with a wide range of people including directors, composers, musicians, actors, sound technicians, recording engineers and producers. Mostly they are freelancers but also employed in variety of fields like Films, Television, Animation, Video

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## CAREER IN SOUND...

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games, Theatres and Music industry.

### Education Requirements

The world of sound offers various career options in media and entertainment industry. Mostly graduates and post graduates in mass media or mass communication begin their career as an intern assisting senior professionals in rehearsals, dry runs and making studio environment according to the situation's demand. With the passage of time, they learn recording accurately, efficiently and resourcefully. As such, sound designing and sound engineering may be called interdisciplinary area which inculcates audio technology, software application, music art, engineering and creativity. Sound designers and engineers are in great demand in media and entertainment industry i.e. Film and Television industry, Music Album industry, Broadcast Networks, Animation, Video Game Development, Radio and Theatres. Sound professionals are supposed to get various designations in this industry like- Broadcast Engineer, Technical In charge, Theatre Sound Director, Audio Engineer, Transmission Executive, CD and DVD Mastering Engineer, Mixing Engineer and Sound Editor. Some specific Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Certificate courses and Diploma courses cater the skill of sound design/ Sound Engineering.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur is a pioneer in offering M.Tech. in Media and Sound Engineering which is Two Years Post

Graduate Degree Programme.

Post Graduate Diploma in Cinema with Editing and Audiography i.e Sound recording as a specialization is offered by Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal. This is an Institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. These students spend huge time learning Sound Recording & Designing Course. Medium of Instruction is English and admission is based on your performance in a written test, Interactive Orientation Session & Viva- Voce at the Institute.

Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi conducts two programmes in this field:

- a) Six months Certificate Course in Creative Media Arts-Digital Sound
- b) One Year Post Graduate Diploma in Audio Programme Production.

Similarly, Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune which is also an Institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India is providing two course: a) One Year Post Graduate Certificate Course in Sound Recording and TV Engineering. b) Three years post graduate diploma in sound recording and sound design.

Department of Music, University of Mumbai runs Six months Advance Certificate course in Sound Recording & Reproduction.

One year Post Graduate Diploma in Audio Engineering is designed by University of Calicut, Kerala.

Three years Diploma in Sound & TV engineering is also run by Biju Patnaik Film and Television Institute, Cuttak, Orissa

Government Film & Television Institute, Bangalore runs Three Years Diploma in Sound Recording and Engineering.

Four Months Full Time Certificate Course in FM Broadcasting and Voice Recording is also designed by National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, Utarakhand.

Nalanda Nriitya Kala Mahavidyalaya, Mumbai, Maharashtra is also running Three Years Certificate course in Sound Recording and Reproduction.

Aptitude for becoming a .Sound designer/ engineer

How can you make an assessment that you have the right talent and knowledge to be a good sound designer? Apart from having a passion for sound, a sound designer would be expected to cultivate the following traits:

1. Relaxed personality and lot of patience for retakes
2. Insightful, innovative and have strong inventiveness
3. Enthusiasm for a variety of music/ sound and very sensitive ears
4. Keen observation to distinct minute

5. difference in pitch, rhythm, tempo, pace, beats of music pieces
6. Love for technology and command on the use of equipment used in the sound industry
7. Ability to work within the given time span and one who sees no limit to the power and potential of any idea
7. Team spirit and good communication skills

Sound Designing is a creative art which crafts the appropriate sounds in a unique way. It is said that ears takes you inwards whereas your eyes take you out. Sound grabs your full attention and takes you in an imaginary world. This depends on how you use this powerful medium for the desired results. Only thing is, you should be knowledgeable about and capable in the software and tools used in sound design. If you keep on experimenting and never give up till your target is attained, you will be successful.

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