

The early history of recording was characterized by a single microphone to record and a single speaker to transmit the sound, once recorded. Such recordings are called mono.

Because mono recordings use only one speaker, for the listener there is no sense of space, no impression of the different sounds - for example, the instruments in an orchestra - coming from a different source or direction as there would be if the same listener was in front of a real orchestra. In such a case the violins would sound louder in the left ear than the right, being positioned, as they are, on the left of the stage, and the cellos and basses louder in the right. The impression of the space the musical group is performing in - in a left to right sense, at least, is what stereo - as opposed to mono - recording aims to simulate.

There are different techniques used to record in stereo but in all cases the final recording is transmitted via two speakers. The sense of space described above is achieved by the difference in volume of a particular sound between the two speakers. For example, in the case outlined above, the violins in the left speaker might be twice as loud as they were in the right speaker. This would be enough to trick the mind into thinking that the violins occupied the left side of the 'stereo field'. In the case of the cellos and basses, the cellos might be twice as loud in the right speaker than the left with the basses maybe three times as loud in the right, since they are positioned to the right of the cellos on stage.

Such an approach is enough to give a sense space, to make the recording more 'alive' or 'real' than a mono recording. However, real it certainly isn't. In reality the listener's perception of a difference in volume between the same sound in one ear than the other is only one way the brain has in positioning sounds in space. Sounds to the left of our heads reach our left ear first, a split second before the right but the time difference is enough for the brain to position the source of the sound. The mix of frequencies is different, too: more bassy in the right ear as the treble frequencies are absorbed to some extent by the head. Such niceties are ignored in pop music recording, though in the classical field, the time lag effect can be achieved by using two microphones.







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SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here's something on the "personal stereo", the Walkman: http://pocketcalculatorshow.com/walkman/history.html





Joshua Says: Well, we were finally convinced to have our regular B-B-Q Party this year. To be honest, it was a bit "touch-and-go" there for a while, but enough people, and Matthew, requested it, so here we go! As always, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there and I am looking forward to having a great time, as we always do. Check out P.3 for the details.

<u>Junko Says</u>: Do you know you can do various activities for home-study through our homepage? Go to our top-page and click on the links button. There you will find about 20 links divided into 3 sections. Check them out! You can study listening, grammar, idioms and other expressions, listen and read along, and much more. You can even play games! These are all free and available anytime.





Jonathan Says: Living near to the ambulance station is annoying, the more so as Japanese ambulances keep their sirens on at all hours of the night – unlike in England where sirens only sound when the roads are busy. There, ambulances travel at over 100kph and motorists immediately pull over. Here they are ignored with a subsequent effect on speed. And effectiveness...

<u>Matthew Says</u>: It's been a busy first month for me in Japan! I noticed that there are many abandoned bicycles around the city. So instead of buying a bicycle I decided to recover one and fix it up myself! I bought some spray paint and a couple of spanners and after a few hours of pleasurable work I now have my own bicycle! Brilliant! So now I can cruise around your wonderful city in style!





Arno Dit: Deja septembre, le temps passe si vite. Et pourtant il fait toujours aussi chaud ici ! En France, septembre marque le debut de la rentree des classes, le debut d'une nouvelle annee scolaire pour tous. Une periode plutot apreciee des enfants, moins des parents,car c'est la course dans les supermarches et tout le monde se precipite!



Miho and Akane's Adventures Overseas - a serial by S(A)3 students: Episode 6

'Isn't that Tom?' asked Akane. Miho didn't answer; she just kept staring at the man.

The game finished. The Japanese congratulated each other and even a few Australians came over to shake hands. Then the tall Australian saw Miho and their eyes locked. The man's were wide open in surprise. He elbowed his way through the crowd in the direction of Miho. He asked her, 'Why are you here?' He looked amazed and delighted.

When she opened her mouth in an attempt to say something she noticed a girl come into the bar and approach Tom. It was the same girl who was with him in the stadium, Miho thought. Miho was worried that she was his girlfriend: the girl touched his shoulder with too much familiarity and told him she was sorry to have kept him waiting. Akane noticed her friend turn pale.

'Who is this girl? Why didn't you tell me your email address in Australia? Why didn't you make contact with me?'

