

## “Sound Mixer Job Description”

from Canadian Classification and Dictionary of Occupations, ©1971

**Sound Mixer** (broadcast, motion picture, & stage) “soundman” (this was 1971)

Operates audio console to regulate volume and quality of sound from several audio feeds; such as voice, music and taped sound effects during stage production, filming of motion pictures, phonograph and video taping sessions and radio and television broadcasts.

Studies script to determine sound requirements for individual scenes. Determines acoustics of premises, such as concert hall or recording studio, using acoustic interferometer.\*\*

Directs placement and adjustment of microphones to achieve best sound pick-up.

Monitors audio signals using headset or loudspeaker and by observing console meters

Actuates console controls to adjust output of various microphones or tape feeds, to ensure that balance and quality of sound is maintained. Instructs performers to project voice or move closer to microphones to ensure adequate sound pickup.

Obtains tapes, records, and these from library and combines them to produce audio for specific program requirements.

Recommends modification of equipment or purchase of new equipment to improve audio facilities.

\*\* An Acoustic Interferometer was an ancient (1971) sound measurement devise. Today we would use a Real Time Analyzer (RTA), or a Source Independent Measurement (SIM) system, or do a Smaart analysis.

From Wikipedia: An **acoustic interferometer** is an instrument for measuring the physical characteristics of [sound waves](#) in a [gas](#) or [liquid](#). It may be used to measure [velocity](#), [wavelength](#), [absorption](#), or [impedance](#). A vibrating [crystal](#) creates the ultrasonic waves that are radiated into the medium. The waves strike a reflector placed parallel to the crystal. The waves are then reflected back to the source and measured.