

Lecture 6

Basic Show Preparation Advice

Always prepare your shows. If you turn up to the studio without preparing beforehand, then your show will suffer. I've tried it. The shows I produced were very poor. If you want to be a great presenter, then you need a professional attitude. And a professional attitude means always doing your show prep.

The more you prepare, the better your show will be. The less you prepare, the worse your show will be. Remember this formula. Crap in = crap out.

Great shows allow you to make a great demo tape. This is because you're taking clips from great material. Making a good demo tape from mediocre shows is tough. I know this from personal experience.

Great shows also allow you to build up an audience no matter how small. If you really can't be bothered to prep one day, then play [this video](#). It always motivates me :) (That's my playlist).

Back Announcing

Telling the listeners what you've just played or who you've just interviewed etc.

Crossfade

Fading one song out while at the same time fading another song in.

(The) Desk

The thing that has all the buttons on!

Driving The Desk

Technically operating the desk on your show. That is, operating the microphones and playing out the music, etc.

(The) Fader

The button that you slide up and down to adjust the volume of a channel. The fader is a posh volume button.

Forward Promoting

Talking about the song, the artist or the interview guest that you're about to play/interview ahead of time. Forward promoting gives people a reason to stay tuned.

Menu

A menu is where you highlight what's coming up on your show. Quite often you'll use a music bed with the show menu. Traditionally you'll round a menu up with a "stab" (or sting).

Stab / Sting

A short clip of music to end a music bed. For example, you play the stab from channel two while at the same time you close the menu bed fader on channel one. It can also be used as a break between items.

Junction

A set time where an "item" must go to air. Think of news, sports, weather bulletins, etc.

Link

A link is whatever we talk about in between the music.

Cue

A "cue" or "cue sheet" is the information we have on paper to introduce an 'item' - be it an interview, a package, a feature, etc.

Segue (pronounced 'segway')

A song or item ends and is immediately followed by another item without any linking announcement.

Station Strap Line

Whatever the station's ident is: e.g., "More music, less talk", "Radio Kings on 999 AM".

Prefade

A 2-3 minute music bed that is started at a designated time (58:00) and ends exactly when the show is supposed to end. The presenter can round up the show. The music will end the show on time.