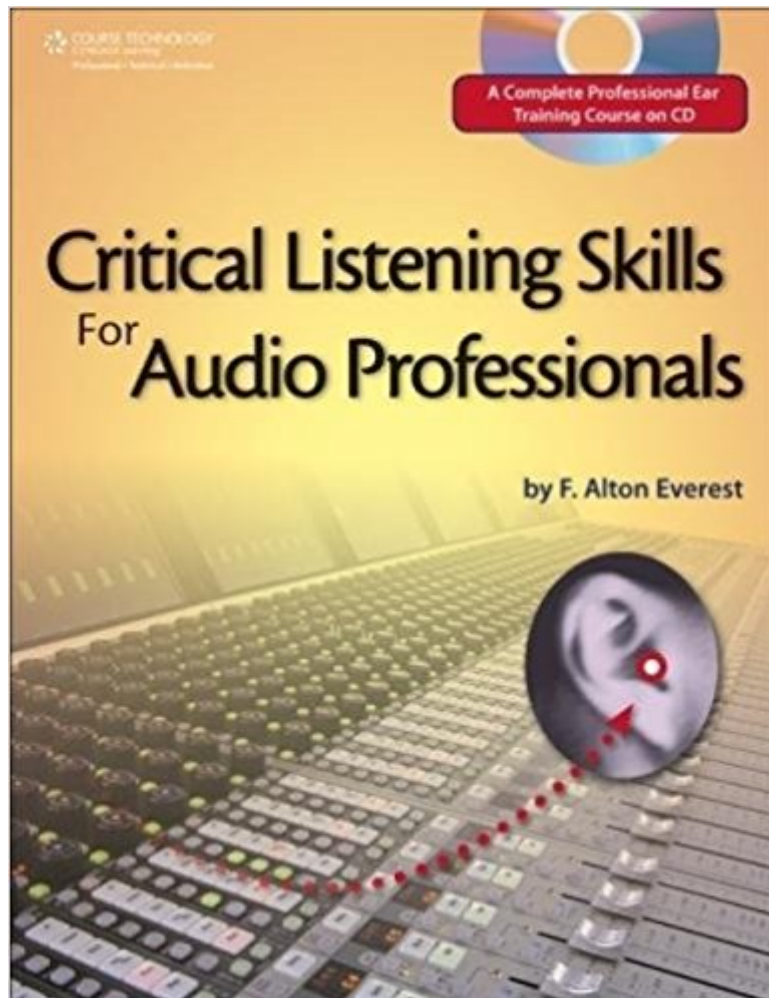




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# Critical Listening Skills For Audio Professionals



## Synopsis

Audio productions are made or broken by the quality of the recording engineer's ears. The ability to properly discern sounds, identify subtle problems, and act accordingly to apply the necessary fix makes all the difference in the quality of the final tracks and master. The good news is that these crucial skills can be learned. The ability to instantly identify frequencies, hear hidden distortions, and instinctively reconcile conflicts in the EQ of instruments, audio elements, vocals and more are traits of those who have mastered the art of audio production. The best engineers have trained their ears to immediately recognize audio problems that the consumer and those new to recording arts would likely not hear, but that, if left unresolved, would result in an amateurish final product. For more than two decades, students of F. Alton Everest's Critical Listening and Auditory Perception courses have rapidly developed these skills by using the intense lessons found in this book and on the CD. Unfortunately the books and CDs included with the course were usually too expensive for aspiring engineers to purchase and were often available only in colleges, universities, or school libraries. Now for the first time these indispensable training sessions are available with this release of Critical Listening Skills for Audio Professionals. Through hundreds of illustrations and an accompanying disc containing high-resolution MP3 files with nearly five hours of narration of the entire course, you can acquire the audio discernment skills of a seasoned recording engineer by studying this course at your own pace, in your own home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The late F. Alton Everest (1909-2005) was the most respected audiologist in the professional recording industry. His revered works and courses produced more than twenty books and editions in his lifetime, including *The Master Handbook of Acoustics*, *Audio Techniques for the Home and Studio*, and *How to Build a Small Budget Recording Studio from Scratch ... With 12 Tested Designs*. As the supervisor of UC San Diego's Listening Section Laboratory during WWII, Everest conducted underwater sound research experiments for the war effort. For 25 years he produced science films for the renowned Moody Institute of Science, followed by years teaching and working as a highly sought after audio consultant.

As a person who tends to be a visual learner rather than an aural learner this course is a very good exercise for getting me to focus and train my ear and mind in new ways. These listening skills are not "automatic" for me so the fact that this book starts at ground level is fine even if I already understand it on paper (and by the lights on my eq- lol). As far as the Critical Listening cd goes I have had no trouble getting it to play, but...why is the first half the book the back half the cd and the second half of the book start at track 1? to confuse me more, when I get to the middle of the cd (where the lessons at the front of the book begin) it starts with lesson two??? Wondering where chapter one disappeared to I skipped through the tracks only to find it as the last track on the cd, track 18. Silly me I expected the cd to follow the book and for lesson one to correspond to track one. What the heck ever happened to quality control? C'mon guys! So minus one star for the quality issues, not content. The ideas are laid out logically and the course walks you along one little step at time. The latter could be a plus or a minus depending upon where you are coming from. For me this was better than if it had just rushed me along without being clear and concise, even if at the expense of being a bit tedious. Others like me might also appreciate the cd that comes with Ira White's "audio made easy" book. It touches on this topic in a practical way with examples involving actual instruments. White's book covers the basics (in breadth, not depth) and is a good resource for those just getting their feet wet in pro audio.

I am currently a student in mediaproduction and not too apt in the field of audio. Often I would come across examples in my textbooks on problems concerning EQ, audio levels, sounds masking each other comb filter effect etc. My biggest problem is that I do not know what I should listen for. I haven't finished this book yet, but I still feel confident enough about in order to praise it in a review. This book is very good. Nice examples on the CD and very helpful. I do not know how useful it is for audio professionals, but for a student I think it is awesome. In my first review I wrote that I thought

the CD was sloppily made. In fact there was no trouble with the tracks, but since I did not realize that the CD contained mp3's rather than ordinary CD tracks my player read track 10 as track 2. Well, I don't know if I would trust mp3's as a listening reference (even if they have a very high quality). I wish they could have used CD quality Wave files on a DVD instead. Still a helpful book, though.

I picked up this book along with *The Master Handbook of Acoustics* and found this book a good accompaniment. A lot of the topics discussed in the Master Handbook sort of coincided with this book in a similar order. I found the audio examples to be a fair reference point.. some of the demonstrations were pretty hokey but the point was totally there. The one thing I didn't like about the Master Handbook of Acoustics was the fact that it was a lot of theory without any sort of audio reference to tie the chapters together and this book worked as a good complement and an overview of what you're listening for. It's true that if you have a copy of this book without a CD, it's useless since it does have audio identification exercises. If you receive this book without a CD or the CD is broken and you purchased from this site, does have a return policy so you'll want to replace it with a different copy right away. Also, if you've got a crazy audiophile setup but can't figure out a way to convert an .mp3 to a CD audio friendly format, try out Audacity for this purpose "[...]"I gave this book 4 stars since it has a dependency on the CD which, according to other reviews, does not work on all systems. This is more of a workbook of exercises than a full on how-to for critical listening.

Great book, but the seller has not answered my queries about where to get the audio files, which without them the book is close to useless.

This book contains some clear and self explanatory audio exercises. I hate to acknowledge that most of the exercises could have already been performed by using a 'free' (computer) tone generator to explore the different frequency ranges. Beware, it will require time to learn to listen properly. I was very wrong to believe that by listening to the contents once, I was set. I would suggest to make copies of use a separate sheet of paper to answers the exercises. This way you can repeat it, over and over. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in improving his/her audio listening skills.\*PROS: -Good and helpful exercises -Nice correlation between the audio exercises and the freq. graphs on the book. -If you have no patience to play with a tone generator, this book is well suited for you.\*CONS -The CD without the book or the book without the CD become useless. -You need to read the book while you listen to the CD. -The CD is

in fact an MP3-CD, so you may not play it anywhere you want. -I have the impression that the book is kind of expensive. Many of the exercises can already be performed by anyone using a (free) tone generator. - The book is kind of bulky to take it anywhere.

As a working musician I have branched into audio work, as well. In the first lesson out of the gate the system "tunes" you in to a new way of thinking. I have found this book to be a great jump start to more effectively running live sound.

Simply brilliant. You surely need both the Cd and the book, but because I have been practising for a while now, I am confident without the book. I transferred the audio files into my phone so I can listen to the courses on the road. A great buy, especially for beginners.

Great book for someone looking to enhance their listening skills. Very scientific approach and the audio examples are great. Content could be dry for some, but then again this is studying the audio spectrum, so what would one expect.

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