



## ***Soundman Aptitude Test CD***

We can take objective measurements of sound and arrive at a good physical description, but nobody in the congregation cares about that. They have one question—"does it sound good?" Church volunteers aspire to become professionals, and Ear for Sound Inc. has introduced the Soundman Aptitude Test (SAT) to help determine whether the aspiring professional has the natural, God-given talent to hear subjective attributes of the sound and hence has even a chance to "go pro."

SAT's motto is "test ... THEN train," basically to determine aptitude before expending training resources. There are two disks in the set—one with just the test audio, and the other with discussion of the correct responses laid over the test audio, along with the test and the answer key in PDF format. Taking the test is simple—answer

the questions as you listen to the audio disk, and then go over the responses while listening to the answer disk (you can also read the answer key).

The listener is asked to find problems with the audio. Some mixes have problems, others don't—a little deliberate subterfuge. Some problems are obvious, some not so much (particularly to the audio layperson). Developer Mike Grimm makes it clear that there is plenty of subjective wiggle-room regarding some of the mixes, particularly regarding vocal blending—getting answers wrong on those does not disqualify a person from mixing. He recommends that if a number of questions were answered incorrectly, a person may improve via an apprenticeship. I took the test and did miss one or two of the more subjective questions, and found the

test very useful. The SAT is well planned and executed, and if I were recruiting live sound engineers, I would definitely use it. Take the test and see how your ears do.

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### **RESOURCE CONTACT INFO**

**EAR FOR SOUND**  
Soundman Aptitude Test CDs  
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