**Lesson 19 – Surround Sound**

**Introduction:**

In today’s vastly ever-growing field of sound engineering and sound production used throughout all forms media whether it is in film production, movie theaters, television, music, and videogames. Surround sound serves as a perpetuate in the form of the overall experience of capturing sound and reproducing sound as if you would hear it in a real life in a 360 degree dimension. This innovation in the way we perceive sound has played such a substantial role in what it means to be a producer. The use of surround sound in the entertainment business including the music industry has and still is pushing onward to opening up many doors for the next generations to come.

**Past to Present:**

Surround sound has a rich history in the entertainment industry especially in film production and cinemas during the 1950’s. The first use of surround sound was in 1940, for the Disney studio’s animated film Fantasia. The brands CinemaScope and Todd-AO provided the world a new way to experience sound in a completely new layout. Instead of hearing monotone playback at theatres, multi-track playback accompanied with stereo sound created an innovative way to experience movies, but this is eventually became the industry standard very shortly there after. From its original formation, during the beginning of what most people call the “electronic age”, speaker setups such as these became easily attainable when costs became a more commercially friendly market.

**Monitoring in 5.1**

A 5.1 surround sound monitoring system incorporates 5 speakers specifically mapped out to an accurate to the rooms needs as far as EQ response. Every room is different. This configuration is typically 2 stereo images; one in front of the room and one in the back of the room to create an accurate recreation of the sounds that you are taking place in the movie.

**Active/Passive Monitors in Surround**

Most of todays home surround sound systems are set up with powered speakers to enable the user more controllability or the ability to upgrade their existing stereo system to a more optimal surround sound configuration. The more control you have, the more control you have mapping out your drivers.

**Sound Interfacing**

Sound interfacing plays a very important role in the quality of the overall sound. Proper volumes can be attained with the use of dedicated channels for mapping out your speaker’s volume and EQ capabilities to get the best possible sound out of your speakers.