K-Meter

Implementation of a K-System meter according to Bob Katz' specifications.

Loudness race

Louder music is perceived to sound better, although that's only true for short periods of time. Due to this fact, the loudness of music productions has continuously grown during the last decades. As maximum levels of records, tapes and digital media are limited, producers and mastering engineers have to use compression to achieve higher loudness without distorting the music (actually, as of 2010, mastering engineers are already using distortion to achieve even higher loudness).

Unfortunately, an excessive increase in loudness leads to a decrease in the dynamic range. When you're listening to current compressed music, it blasts away your ears and makes you turn down the volume of your amplifier. Having lowered the volume, you'll find that the "better-sounding" music suddenly sounds pretty dull and boring compared to uncompressed music, whereas music with high dynamic range makes you turn up the volume.

The K-System meter

The K-System meter has been devised by mastering engineer Bob Katz in order to counteract the ongoing loudness race.

This file is a place-holder for the final manual.