

Stereo & Panning

Music

Where to place things across the image, and the two rules that keep it stable.

Panning positions from hard left to hard right.

Centre, always

Kick drum

Bass

Lead vocal

Snare

Spread

Overheads — wide

Guitars — L and R, opposed

Keys and pads — moderately wide

Backing vocals — either side of the lead

Rules

Low frequencies carry no direction — centre them

Balance the sides so the image does not lean

Check in mono: things can vanish

Techniques

Double-track and hard-pan for width

Haas: 10–30 ms delay on one side

Mid/side EQ to widen without repanning

Always check the mix in mono. Anything that disappears has a phase problem you cannot hear in stereo.