



Certification Test - Prep

Theatre Sound

To prepare for the Theatre Sound test read the Theatre Sound System information sheet, look over the Theatre Diagram and:

- Know where the proscenium is
- Know stage right and stage left
- Know house right and house left
- Know where all of the components of the sound & lighting system are and be able to label them on a theatre diagram:
 - look box
 - light box
 - runner light switch
 - the three house light switches
 - sound rack
 - mixer board location
 - draw in the snake that runs through the walls
 - mic input to snake from stage mics
 - mic output to mixer from snake
- Know in what order the mixer and sound rack are turned on/off to power up or power down the system
- Be able to set up a wired mic into a specific channel on the mixer or directly into the sound rack
- Be able to set up a wireless mic & know which mic clip goes with the wireless
- Know how to adjust a mic stand to the correct height
- Explain why our wireless mics, although convenient, present a problem to the sound tech
- Know how to run a sound check
- Be able to lock and unlock the sound rack and drawer
- Know what a lavalier mic is
- Be able to explain how sound gets from a stage mic through the snakes to the mixer and back to the amplifier and to the speaker. What is its path?
- Know what components are in the sound rack and which switches get turned on and off and which stay on all the time
- Know why we have an eight channel mixer, but can only use 7 mics with it

Hands-on Part:

1. Unlock the sound rack and the drawer
2. Locate a mic, 50' mic cable and mic stand (from the theatre, not the music area).
3. Set up the mic in the center of the stage, in front of the proscenium.
4. Adjust the mic so that it easily comes to your own mouth.
5. Plug in the mic so that it will be in channel two on the mixer in the back of the theatre house (not the sound rack).
6. Power up the sound system (be sure you turn things on in the correct order!)
7. Do a sound check for that mic -- ask someone around to help you.
8. Instruct helper in the proper way to handle the mic in a sound check.
9. Power down the sound system.
10. Unplug the mic from the system.
11. Plug the mic into the mic-3 input on the sound rack.
12. Power up the system; be sure the rear speakers are turned up.
13. Do a sound check on the mic.
14. Be sure to walk out into the house to see if the volume is correct.
15. Check the rear speakers, too.
16. Turn down volume and remove the mic cable from the mic-3 input
17. Get out the wireless handheld mic and set it up on a mic stand
18. Do a sound check on the wireless
19. Powerdown the system
20. Put away the microphones (wired and wireless) and all equipment
21. Put mic stand(s) down and store them properly
22. Lock drawer and door
23. Give keys back to teacher

Score sheet for Hands-on Theatre Sound Certification

(Your evaluator will use this checklist)

- able to unlock the door of the sound rack
- unlocks drawer of sound rack
- locates mic and 50' mic cable from the drawer
- locates mic stand from next to the sound rack
- sets up mic, on stand, center stage, in front of the proscenium
- sets up mic stand so that mic comes to height of own mouth
- if boom stand, boom is angled out a bit, but not pulled out all the way to the weight
- plugs cable into the snake input #2 behind the sound rack
- checks that the external snake (the one taped to the floor) has cable #2 plugged into input #2 on the mixer, if not, plugs it in
- checks to be sure the volume sliders are all turned down on the mixer
- turns on mixer board first
- checks that master volume and all channel volumes are turned down
- locates and turns on master power switch on sound rack

- runs sound check for mic by
 - instructs helper to speak into mic (alphabet, story, song), not blow or tap mic
 - turns up main power to 0 line
 - then gradually turns channel 2's volume up as helper is speaking into the mic
- turns down all channel volume sliders and the main slider on the mixer
- turns off the sound rack first
 - turns down the main volume and channel volume on the sound rack
 - turns off only the master power switch, not the power on other components
- turns off mixer
- removes mic cable from snake input behind the sound rack
- plugs mic cable into the mic-3 input on the sound rack
- turns on sound rack, but not the mixer in the back of the theatre
- turns up main volume
- turns up rear house speakers to two notches lower than the main volume.
- does sound check:
 - turns up main volume on front and rear speakers (rear 2 notches lower)
 - turns up the volume on mic-3 as someone is speaking into the mic.
 - goes out into the house to see if the sound is loud enough, but not too loud
 - checks rear speaker sound
- turns down volume before unplugging the mic from the mic-3 input
- puts wired mic someplace safe while setting up wireless if using the same mic stand
- locates a wireless handheld mic
- locates mic clip for wireless handheld
- may use same mic stand or get a second one out
- correctly sets up mic on stand
- locates and identifies antennae
- screws in both antennae (if student forgets, it is OK to say, "Did you forget something in this set up for the wireless?")
- does soundcheck
 - turns up master volume
 - gradually turns up channel volume
 - checks sound from the house
- turns down the main volume and channel volume
- turns off only the master power switch, not the power on other components
- correctly wraps and ties the mic cable
- puts mics, mic cable and mic clips in the drawer
- removes antennae and puts in the door (preferably BEFORE trying to close the sound rack door...)
- locks drawer
- locks door
- lowers mic stand(s) boom and extensions and puts next to sound rack
- gives keys back to the teacher!