

THE ULTIMATE WORSHIP ENGINEER CHECKLIST

WORSHIPTECH.LIVE

1.

GET THERE EARLY.

That may sound overly simplistic, or just something you don't wanna do, but it really goes a long way. It's SUPER important to show the worship team as well as pastoral leadership how much you value being involved and contributing your talents to the church. Not to mention, when things are ready to go, powered up and running before the worship leader gets there, it sets the tone for the entire day in a positive way.

**BEFORE THE FIRST NOTE IS PLAYED,
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GET THE
WORSHIP TEAM STARTED ON A
POSITIVE NOTE BY BEING READY TO GO
BEFORE THEY GET THERE.**

2.

MIX REHEARSAL FROM MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES.

You'd be surprised how easy it is to really get desensitized to what things sound like to you in the sound booth, and chances are your sound booth isn't in an ideal location. Get out of there and WALK AROUND and feel out where the congregation, and ESPECIALLY the pastor is going to be listening. It could not only make or break the confidence your team has in you, it can make or break your mix. It helps to have a mobile device to mix on. But even if you don't have one, you'd be surprised how many patterns you begin to notice from walking around, making minimizing your mix adjustments throughout the service very easy.

IT'S EASY TO JUST SIT IN YOUR CHAIR AND MIX BEHIND THE CONSOLE. BUT IT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO PUT YOURSELF IN THE POSITION OF ANYONE THAT WILL HEAR YOUR MIX AND DO WHAT IT TAKES TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR PERSPECTIVE.

3.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BAND.

You're mixing. It's a full time job. It's not easy and under appreciated. But remember that you're probably the only person who can help the band with something if they have a problem or need an adjustment in their monitors. Being present and assisting with issues and just ACKNOWLEDGING their concerns, even if you can't always solve them, can make you the MVP of the church.

WORSHIP INVOLVES BOTH ART AND SCIENCE. THEY ARE PARTNERS. SHOW THE ARTISTS THAT THE SCIENTIST IS NOT MAD.

4.

MAKE SURE YOUR PASTOR HAS HIS MICROPHONE.

And I don't mean just leave it on his chair. Hand it to him. Show him (or her) that you took the time to ensure he has the tools he needs to do his job. You'd be surprised how far it goes. And don't forget the batteries!

SO MUCH ABOUT BEING A TECH ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT THE TECH. IT'S ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER AND PAYING ATTENTION TO LITTLE DETAILS THAT IN YOUR MIND, MAY NOT REALLY AFFECT THE BOTTOM LINE. BUT THEY DO. BELIEVE ME.

5.

BE COOL, BRO.

Issues are gonna happen. Success in the tech world isn't an environment where issues don't exist. It's keeping a level head, preventing problems before they happen, and REMAINING CALM when they do. Your posture under stress and problems happening is what your pastoral staff, media team and volunteers will truly know you by. Be the cucumber.

WE EXIST TO BE THE SOLUTION. BUT SOMETIMES WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. AND THAT'S OKAY. OUR ATTITUDE IN THOSE TIMES IS WHAT TRULY WHAT MAKES US GREAT TECH PEOPLE.

6.

MIX FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

Don't just trust where you THINK the fader goes. Listen. Feel things out. Pay attention to how people are reacting in the room to the mix. Are they in pain? Or are they having trouble hearing the vocalist?

**THERE'S ALWAYS CUES AROUND YOU
LETTING YOU KNOW HOW THINGS ARE
GOING. PAY ATTENTION TO THEM.
DON'T BETRAY YOUR OWN
SENSIBILITIES, BUT KNOW THAT AT
ANY GIVEN TIME, THEY CAN BETRAY
YOU.**

7.

HOW YOU GOT RESULTS YESTERDAY PROBABLY WON'T HELP YOU TODAY.

That's probably a tough thing to hear, if you haven't already closed out the PDF! But it's true. Don't get yourself into the rut of thinking "I cut 400Hz by 3dB on a vocal last week. I'll just do that on every vocalist and every microphone from here on out." WRONG. NEVER let yourself fall into that. The example given is a major oversimplification, but it's incredibly easy to develop habits based on what previously got you results, and before you know it, those experiences are puppeteering every way you do all things. Experience is good, but sometimes, it doesn't give you objective info.

**KNOW WHAT IS WORKING AND WHAT'S
NOT. FOR EVERY RULE IN THE
APPLICATION OF AUDIO SCIENCE TO
MUSICAL ART, THERE'S A TIME TO
BREAK IT. KNOW WHEN THAT TIME IS.**

8.

KEEP SOME EXTRA CABLES AND BATTERIES LAYING AROUND.

Cables are cheap on Amazon. You can buy batteries in bulk at Sam's. It may seem like extra money (it is extra money) right now, but it could save you big time in the long run. Sometimes, there's not time to run to the store when a mic goes dead and you don't have any batteries left, or a cable spontaneously goes bad RIGHT before service. Get plenty.

IF IT CAN HAPPEN, IT WILL.