

Title:

Troubleshooting A Noisy PA System

Word Count:

631

Summary:

When your band plays in different locations on a regular basis, noise in your P.A. system is a

1. Poor cables on the inputs
2. Fluorescent lights
3. Dimmers
4. Poor design, particularly shielding and location of the mixer and power amps power transformer
5. Poor A/C wiring in the location where the P.A. is being used
6. Radio stations or other transmitters in the area

Keywords:

musical instruments, guitar repair, music, guitar

Article Body:

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5. Poor A/C wiring in the location where the P.A. is being used
6. Radio stations or other transmitters in the area
7. Large motors close to the system
8. Grounding problems, when using equipment manufactured by different companies
9. Noise in the input signal, especially guitar pickups
10. Magnetic fields induced by other nearby components like air conditioners

Be sure to turn down your level sliders before you attempt to plug or unplug any source that is

Most of these system problems can be reduced or even eliminated by using high quality cables and

To check for the source of the noise, unplug all inputs at the mixer input jacks and listen for

Here are a few tips to help with input noise problems:

Remember, some hiss is normal, and occurs when an input is at a high level, or all the way up.

1. Reduce the length of the cables.
2. Wherever possible, use balanced sources. Some mixers have both balanced and unbalanced outputs.
3. Use direct boxes where possible for instruments being plugged into the mixer. This isolates the instrument from the mixer.
4. Change your cables to higher quality ones with a high degree of shielding.
5. Make sure the input cables are not lying too close to a transformer, motor, amplifier or other electrical equipment.
6. Plugging the components of a P.A. system into different electrical outlets can sometimes cause noise. Try plugging the same circuit, even if you have to run extension cords to accomplish this.
7. Turn any lights on dimmers off, or if this is not possible, turn them fully on.

If the noise does not disappear or reduce significantly when you disconnect all inputs, then t
First start with the mixer. Turn all outputs to zero. If the noise disappears then the problem
Eventually you will locate the problem, and the suggestions mentioned above should help in mos

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