

JULY 7, 2010: ANALOG VS DIGITAL

The first time I began to become aware of the subtle difference in the sound between digital and analog playing of music was back in the mid-nineties. First of all let me clarify that vinyl records, cassette and 8-track tapes all played in analog and the newer compact discs all play in digital. Now back to my story, I took my record player to a turntable clinic to be repaired. Speaking to the technician revealed to me a very important fact. The short fellow told me in a very thick Asian accent, "The audio-file love the turntable. It play in analog at a frequency of about 10,000 Hz. It make you relax, make you feel good, but the CD, it play in digital at a frequency of about 80-100,000 Hz. It is 8 to10 times more information for your brain to process. It make you tired, make you siick". Little was I to know then, just how prophetic this man's statement would turn out to be. Gone are the glory days when music was King. The digitalizing effect of the compact disc has sucked the life right out of the sound of our music and converted it into "Musak" or background noise.

Here's an interesting anecdote for your consideration. When I first began to drive a taxi back in 1992, every day half of all the fares I took in the cab asked to hear some music. This was during the time when most people still played vinyl albums. After about 18 years of people playing their digital CD's and virtually discarding all of their analog records and tapes, how many people a day in my taxi do you think ask or would want to hear some music now? Try about one person in a year. As a musician and a songwriter this major observation spoke volumes to me. The music had somehow lost all of its meaning and significance. All of these facts are completely unbelievable, and yet they are totally the truth.

*F. Q. (Famous Quote) We can only change the world by changing men.
~Charles Wells*