

K

k: Kilo. One Thousand. For example, 20kHz=20,000Hz.

K: (1) Often used in place of “k” for one thousand, but precisely means 1,024 bytes, or 2^{10} bytes, abbreviated KB. (2) Temperature measured by the Kelvin scale. The various film and TV lighting sources are always measured by the Kelvin scale, and most color film stocks are balanced to give proper color reproduction at either 3,200°K (tungsten-halogen lamps) or 5,400°K (noonday sun).

key: In music, the key is the pitch of the *tonic* of the musical *scale* used. Tonal music gravitates toward a home key, the tonic. Key is established by the use of a fixed *scale* of notes based on this tonic note and can be emphasized by other, related notes and by *cadences*. The tonic note or chord assumes greater importance than the others and leads, by extension, to a hierarchy of chords with the *dominant* (based on the fifth note of the scale) of particular significance. See *temperament*.

keyboard control voltage: The *control voltage* parameter that tells the signal-generating circuit exactly which key has been depressed.

keyboard rate scaling: See *envelope tracking*.

keyboard scaling: A function with which sound can be altered smoothly across the range of the keyboard by using key number as a modulation source. *Level scaling* changes the loudness of the sound, while *filter scaling* changes its brightness.

key code: See *keyboard control voltage*.

key follow: See *envelope tracking*.

keying input: In a signal processing or generating device, an input for a control signal that determines the type and amount of processing applied to the audio signal, or of the sound produced, respectively.

keying signal: The signal sent to the *keying input* of a signal-producing or signal processing device, which then activates the device.

key map: A keymap assigns a *sample* to each MIDI note or key on a keyboard. The map is set to respond to a specific MIDI *channel* so incoming MIDI notes on that channel trigger the samples assigned to them.

key numbers: Numbers on the side of film stock created during film manufacture that are visible on the developed negative and positive prints made therefrom.

key pressure: See *poly pressure*.

key signature: The group of *sharp* or *flat* symbols placed immediately after the *clef* symbol on the *stave* at the beginning of a piece of music, and at the beginning of every subsequent stave, to indicate the *key*. These sharps or flats are presumed to be active for the duration of the piece or section, unless cancelled either temporarily (for one bar or part of the current bar) by an *accidental*, or more permanently, by the placing of a new key signature.

keyboard tracking: See *envelope tracking*.

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kirsch: In film, means when a director has requested a change in the sound and then gives his or her approval to what was, in fact, no net change, either deliberately or accidentally on the part of the mixers. Kirches can be self-inflicted as when a mixer adjusts a control when it is not in the signal path, or listens for a change while the *PEC/direct paddles* are in *playback mode*, as opposed to *input mode*.

KSHRFOO: The traditional first seven microphone input channels on a mixing console in a rock recording/SR set-up. By convention, these are for the Kick-drum, Snare, Hi-hat, Rim, Overhead left, and Overhead right mics on the drum kit.