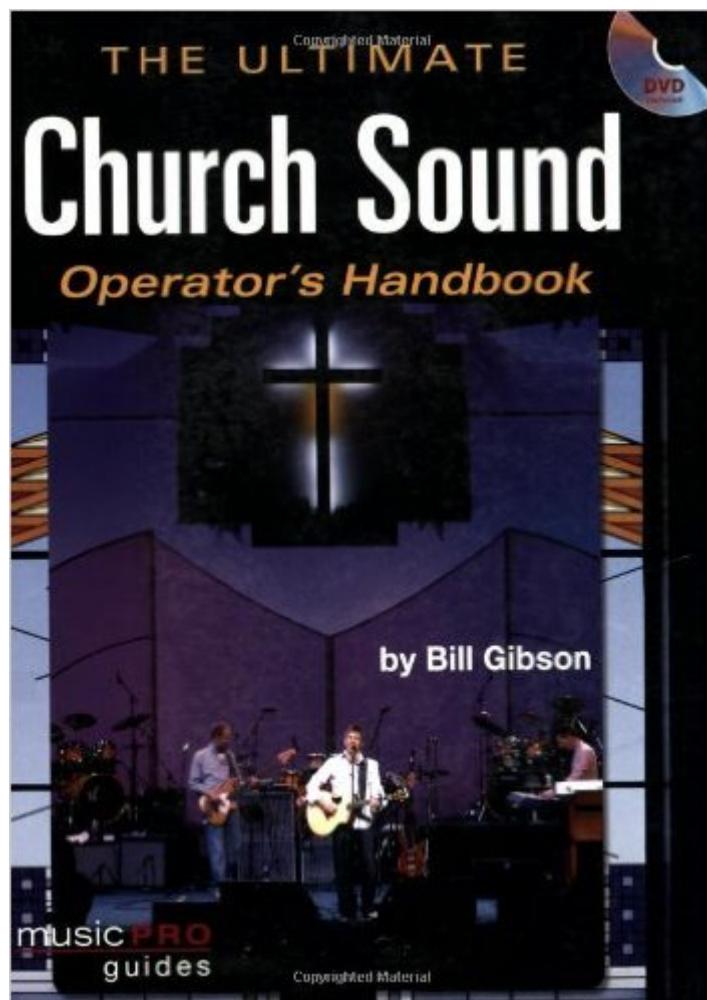


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The Ultimate Church Sound Operator's Handbook: Music Pro Guides



Synopsis

(Music Pro Guide Books & DVDs). The Ultimate Church Sound Operator's Handbook is written to specifically address the concerns and needs of the sound person who serves ministries and churches. The modern church uses many of the same presentation tools that have become common in television, movies, and concerts, placing a unique set of technical expectations on its eager, willing, and primarily volunteer force. This comprehensive handbook blends the relational and technical aspects of church sound in a straightforward and easy-to-understand manner. The Ultimate Church Sound Operator's Handbook will provide a leg-up to church sound operators who want to do a great job but need the perfect tool created specifically for them to gain the knowledge needed to excel and succeed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am an acoustical and systems design consultant who specializes in the design and functional rehabilitation of worship facilities. I recently purchased this book as part of a survey of available literature for possible use when training the operators of the sound systems I design. I had high hopes for this book, since it is colorfully illustrated and comes with a DVD that could be used to more clearly illustrate the fundamentals of live audio, which the book purports to teach. In order to teach the fundamentals of sound reinforcement, one must have a very high level of mastery of technical concepts in a variety of disciplines, including acoustics, electronics, and psychoacoustics.

In addition, one must have the ability to communicate this type of information clearly and succinctly to a non-technical audience. Unfortunately, nearly all of the chapters of this book contain at least some significant misconceptions about audio, ranging from the common to the truly bizarre. The fact that almost none of the information in the book is referenced, or otherwise attributed to the sources from which it came, even though the same topics are covered in many books of varying degrees of authority, should tip off the savvy reader that further scrutiny is warranted. The lack of a reference or resource list also denies the reader any help in locating the numerous excellent learning resources that have been developed for church and secular sound operators in recent years. The fact that book freely intermixes misinformation with reasonably accurate information will make it almost impossible for any person new to audio to discern which is which. In addition to the many inaccuracies, many basic concepts of audio are explained in ways that are confusing even to bona fide experts in the field.

With 12 of 22 chapters directly addressing technical topics and a chapter entitled "System Design and Layout", it is difficult to see how the author can claim that this book was not intended to address audio technicians or system designers. And I do not understand how the intended audience being less technically knowledgeable makes presenting technical inaccuracies and misconceptions acceptable. The issues surrounding the technical aspects presented in this book have been noted by others and technical errors, inaccuracies and misconceptions are indeed prevalent throughout the book, so I will not dwell on those aspects any further. Many of the discussions and techniques presented in the book represent the author's personal opinion and preferences, unfortunately these personal perspectives seem to be presented as generally accepted practices. Alternative approaches and perspectives are rarely presented or discussed. Numerous times the author acknowledges that many churches may not be able to implement the suggestions presented, but then fails to offer any alternatives or further discussion. It should also be noted that many of the views offered in this book differ from those expressed by numerous church sound operators and leaders, including those presented in several very popular church sound forums in which the author apparently does not participate. I found that this book generally exhibits a very exclusive perspective and believe that the value of what is presented would be greatly enhanced if there was more time spent on discussion of alternative perspectives and how the topics could be applied to different churches and applications.

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