



Curb Café Project

Audio Engineering Technology

Practical Lab

Submitted by Bradlee Ward

info@bradward.net

www.BradWard.net

**Project developed by
Bradlee Ward and Frank Baird
for Belmont University's Audio Engineering Technology
2560 – Sound Reinforcement**

Project Description:

The Curb Cafe on Belmont's campus is a typical small restaurant venue environment in which you will complete a set of projects throughout the course of this semester. The events booked in this space are largely acoustic performances, composed of a few instruments and vocals.

In pairs, you will be required to serve as a part of the production team for 2 performances throughout the semester, once as A1/Lead Sound Engineer, and once as A2/Sound Tech. A sign up sheet is provided and dates are on a first come, first served basis. Choose one date before midterm and one after. Check the online schedule to be sure the café has a band booked for that night before signing up.

Duties of the A1:

A survey is done by the Café Event Manager, and the Production Manager (PM) advances the show. At least one week prior to your performance, contact the PM and collect all information you need. This may be a phone call or in-person meeting. If anything is missing, the PM may ask you to contact the bands directly.

From the information collected, generate a stage plot and schematic block diagram (SBD) that reflects those needs, choosing mics and DIs and deciding what order you will patch them in. Drawings may be by CAD or hand drawn, but should be neat and legible. SBDs should show the signal path with inputs on the left and outputs on the right. Locations where power is needed onstage should also be noted on the stage plot but not on the SBD.

You will also determine how many of the 4 available monitor wedge/mixes you will need, and show this on your drawings.

Your SBD should also include how you plan to use the available signal processing including compressor/gates and reverbs.

Any information that is unknown should be marked "TBD" and determined when the bands arrive.

A copy of the stage plot is then emailed to the PM and your instructor by 10am on the day of the performance. If you do a hand drawing, a clear photo or scan is fine.

Once the drawings are complete, make 3 hard copies to take on performance day.

Team Duties:

Specific call times for each performance are determined by the PM and will be posted on the Café calendar. Generally, your call time will be 1.5 hours prior to the first performance. It is your responsibility to show up when you are scheduled. Reminders will not be sent. There is a subscribe link on the calendar which may be helpful.

Upon arrival, check in with the PM and quickly go over the plans as a team with the PM. Then, with the help of the PM, set up the stage according to your plot and be ready for your performers. The A2 will patch the stage according to the SBD. All cables are to be labeled with provided marking tape. It is also a good practice to label which mix each monitor wedge is. (You need to bring your own Sharpie marker.) The A1 will patch/label the console and any outboard processing. You will then line check the stage, making sure that all mics and DIs are properly patched and working. Once you complete a line check, prep the monitors by dialing up vocal mics to their respective wedges and adjusting the graphic EQ for that mix to eliminate any feedback present.

Specific call times for the bands and their soundcheck times are on the Café calendar. Generally they will arrive 60 minutes prior to the opening act in order to sound check, and they soundcheck in the reverse order of the performance. Once they have set up their instruments, the soundcheck will begin. At the A1's instruction, the A2 will direct them to briefly play each instrument and test each vocal mic, while they are playing the A1 will set input gains, make any necessary EQ changes, and dial up monitor mixes based on how much of each input the performers need to hear keeping in mind what is appropriate. The A1 will also determine if any changes need to be made in regard to mic placement, etc.

After all sound checks are complete and the stage setup is final, the A2 will neaten up the stage and tape down any cables that could be a trip hazard with the provided gaff tape. Take a few photos of the setup including the stage and the console and email them to your instructor.

There may be multiple bands on a given night. It is up to you to accommodate this.

House music will be provided by the PM. An 1/8" stereo connection should be available at the console for this.

In preparation for the show, the A1 will insert a USB flash drive into the recorder at FOH and begin recording 3-5 minutes prior to the show start. (You need to bring your own 2GB min. Flash Drive.) This "board mix" recording of the performance will serve as one of your deliverables, so make sure you remember to start the recording or you will not receive credit.

All cables should be cleaned of any gaff or labeling tape and neatly wrapped. All equipment should be stored in its designated spot. Any damaged equipment should be clearly marked and reported to the PM who will notify the staff.

A daily checklist will be done for each night by the PM. This checklist will electronically submitted to your instructor. A copy of this checklist is attached.

The recording should be "topped and tailed" and saved for your evaluation meeting. Within 3 days of the performance, the A1 and A2 should get together and listen to parts of the recording. Take notes and provide a 1-page summary of the performance in

regard to sound. At least 2 photos should be included. Reference specific points in the recording (at least 3) by time and note what was successful and what wasn't or could have gone better. Note any questions you have for your instructor and note if there were any external problems that affected your experience (like the bands showing up late, or information not provided, etc.). This is due 1 week from the performance. Within 1 week of your group's 2nd performance, schedule a 15 minute meeting (A1 and A2) with your instructor to review both performances and to listen to the key points in the recordings (the ones in the report) and to generally discuss the projects.

Deliverables :

Stage Plot and SBD to instructor by 10am day of performance.

3 copies of Stage Plot and SBD by call time at the café.

Performance checklist completed by PM at the end of the day.

Recording edited and points identified as described.

Written summary and photos to instructor within 1 week of performance.

Review meeting with instructor within 1 week of 2nd performance.

Evaluation:

Daily checklist (see attached)

Stage plot and SBD

Written summary and photos

Review participation

Possible occasional critique by faculty or industry professionals that attend specific projects.



Curb Cafe Project

Evaluation Date: _____
Name: _____

Grade: _____

Unacceptable
Below Average
Average
Above Average
Excellent

A1 Evaluation: _____ Date/Band A1: _____

Overall performance as A1	0	1	2	3	4
Communication - information collection documenting problems	0	1	2	3	4
StagePlot/SBD to instructor on time (10am day of)	0	1	2	3	4
Drawing Technically correct, complete, accurate, neat	0	1	2	3	4
As built drawings complete/quality	0	1	2	3	4
Performance report	0	1	2	3	4
Summary on time (1 week after show)	0	1	2	3	4
Summary participation and quality	0	1	2	3	4
Photos sent/usefulness	0	1	2	3	4
Review preparation and participation	0	1	2	3	4
Recordings - usefulness of the 3 selected clips for our discussion	0	1	2	3	4
Teamwork	0	1	2	3	4

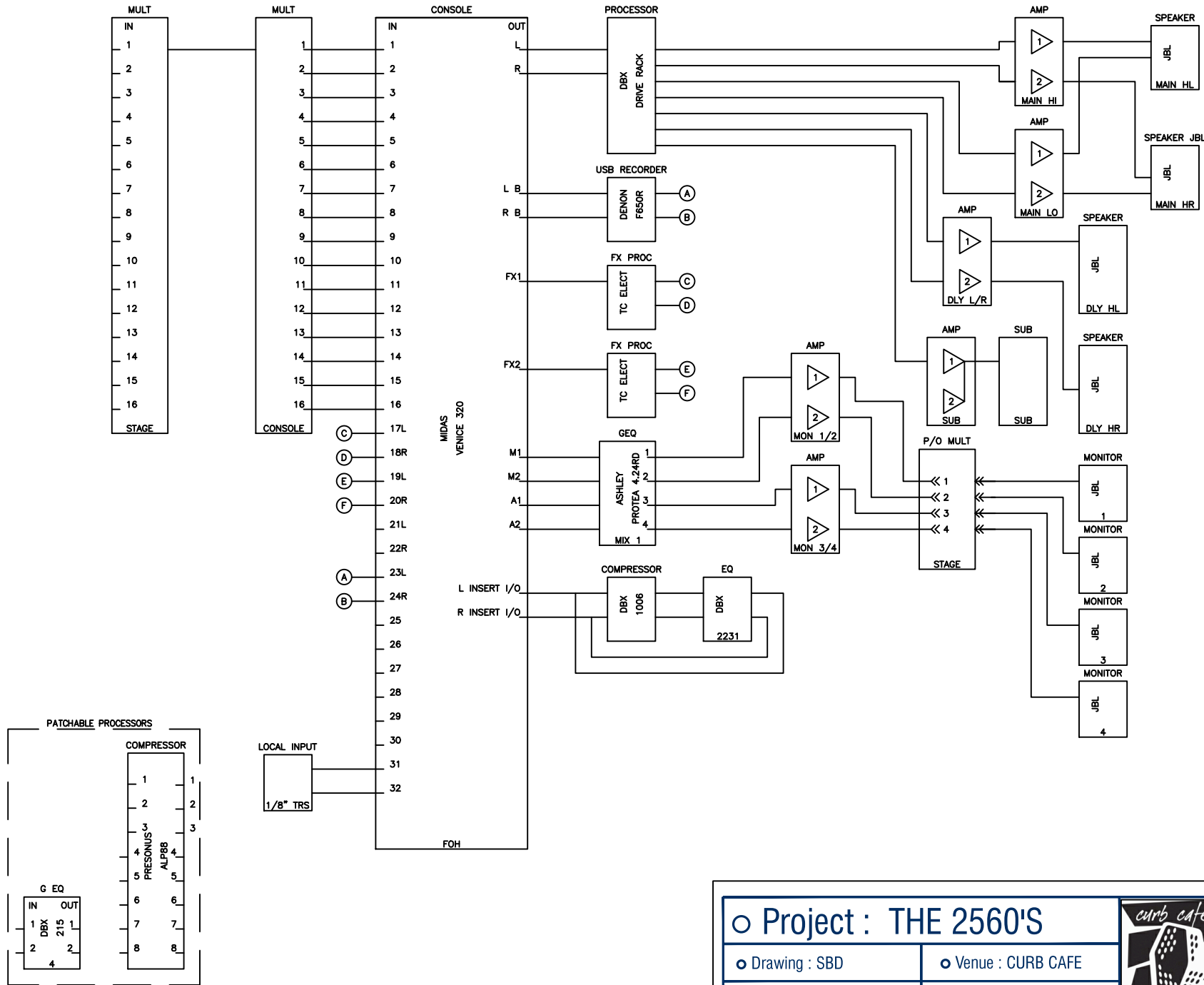
Notes A1: _____

A2 Evaluation: _____ Date/Band A1: _____

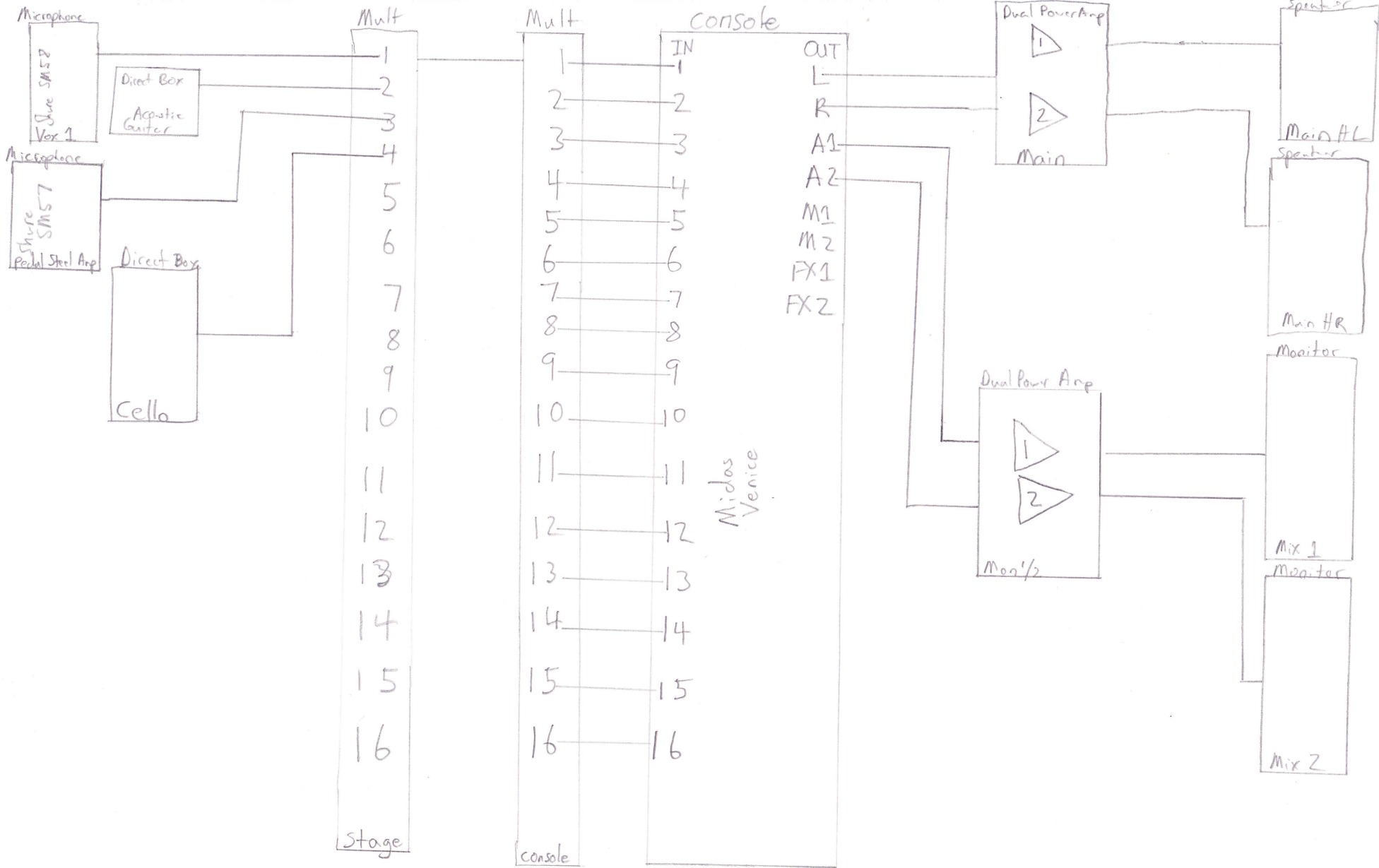
Overall performance as A2	0	1	2	3	4
Performance report	0	1	2	3	4
Summary on time (1 week after show)	0	1	2	3	4
Summary participation and quality	0	1	2	3	4
Photos sent/usefulness	0	1	2	3	4
Review preparation and participation	0	1	2	3	4
Recordings - usefulness of the 3 selected clips for our discussion	0	1	2	3	4
Teamwork	0	1	2	3	4

Notes A2 & General Notes: _____

Overall Grade _____
0 1 2 3 4



○ Project : THE 2560'S		
○ Drawing : SBD	○ Venue : CURB CAFE	
○ SHOW DATE: 1/22/2013	○ REVISION : 1/3/2013	
○ Drawn By: BRAD WARD	○ Scale : NTS	



Sample Student Submittal

Curb Cafe	
██████████	██████████
• 9/28/12	
Drawn by: ██████████	Scale: NTS



Curb Cafe	
9/28/12	Drawn by: [REDACTED]
Scale: NTS	

Sample Student Submittal