

Signal Flow Charts

A visual representation of signal flow is often used to document, understand, and communicate complex audio systems. Often referred to as *flow charts* or *block diagrams*, these visual representations can help you get an overview of the system, or subsections thereof, and aid in developing a better sense of system configurations.

In this course, we will be using and creating flow charts for most of the hands-on sections of the course. In order to 'standardize' our charts for this course, the following general guidelines will be used. Note, there are numerous possible ways of organizing flow charts – the following ideas will simply serve to maximize communication within this particular course.

- 1) Signals will generally flow in one direction only, unless otherwise noted
- 2) Signal flow will generally be from left to right, and/or top to bottom
- 3) Inputs to devices will be on the left or top
- 4) Outputs from devices will be on the right or bottom
- 5) Rectangular shapes will be used to signify functional blocks of a system (devices)
- 6) Solid lines will be used to signify signal connections between functional blocks
- 7) We will only get as deep and detailed into a system as needed for the task at hand