

# The Great Gig Glossary - Discover Live

## A

**AAA (ACCESS ALL AREAS)** – A pass granting access to all of the restricted backstage areas at a concert or gig.  
**AMA (ACCESS MOST AREAS)** – A pass granting access to only some of the restricted areas at a concert or gig.  
**ACOUSTICS** – The behaviour of sound and its study. The acoustics of a room depend on its size and shape and the amount and position of sound-absorbing and reflecting material.  
**ADVANCING SHOWS** – Ringing venues a few days before the show to check the overall details for a gig or concert.  
**AFTER SHOW** – The party after a gig or concert.  
**AMBIENCE** – The portion of the sound that comes from the surrounding environment rather than directly from the sound source.  
**AUDIO** – Most often referring to electrical signals resulting from a sound pressure wave being converted into electrical energy.  
**AUDIO PLUG IN** – Can add or enhance audio-related functionality in a computer program. Such functionality may include digital signal processing or sound synthesis.

## B

**BACKLINE** – Used to refer to audio amplification equipment that stands behind the band on stage, including guitar, bass amps and drum kit.  
**BILLSTICKER** – Someone that places your show, tour or performance flyer/poster in public places.  
**BIO (BIOGRAPHY)/BAND BIO** – A written history of an artist or band, that includes the artist or band members' origins, their discography and any other important achievements, such as awards or landmark gigs.  
**BOOKING AGENT** – A person that gets paid a set fee for organising a tour, gig or concert.  
**BOOMSTAND** – A microphone stand equipped with a telescoping support arm to hold a microphone.  
**BUMP** – When a confirmed concert or gig date gets given to someone else.

## C

**CAPACITY (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'CAP' OR 'PAX')** – The number of people that will legally fit inside a venue.  
**CATERING** – Hospitality for a band or artist provided by the venue, usually includes food and drinks. Can also refer to the room where food is being served.  
**CLEARANCE** – The space from either the stage to the roof or the the floor to the roof.  
**COMMISSION** – A percentage of tour or show income promised as payment, i.e. for the promoter, manager etc  
**COMP** – Complimentary or free ticket.  
**CONTRACTOR** – The legal term for a person contracting an artist or band to play a concert or gig ie. a venue or promoter.

## D

**DECIBEL (dB)** – Relative measurement for the volume (loudness) of sound.  
**DELAY** – A signal which comes from a source and then is delayed by a tape machine or delay device and can be mixed with the original (non-delayed) signal to make it sound fuller, create echo effects etc.  
**DEPOSIT** – A portion or percentage of a fee paid in advance to secure a booking. This can be to secure a venue or to secure a band.  
**DOOR SPLIT** – A deal between a band and a promoter – or venue - where the artists get a portion of the ticket sales instead of a guaranteed fee.  
**DOOR LIST OR GUEST LIST** – A list of non-paying guests held at the door of a concert or gig.

## E

**EFFECTS** – Signals added to a PA system to change and enhance the signals going through it. Examples include reverb, delay, compressor and chorus.

## F

**FEEDBACK** – The delayed signal sent back to the input of a delay line, used in repeat-echo effects.  
**FLOAT** – A small amount of cash that is used for miscellaneous purposes or to provide change for paying guests to a concert or gig.  
**FOH (FRONT OF HOUSE)** – Anything that's not on the stage or backstage. The mixing desk is sometimes referred to as FOH.  
**FOLDBACK** – The speaker system that allows an artist or band to hear themselves onstage. See also 'monitors'.  
**FOOT SWITCH** – A switch placed on the floor and pressed by a musician to control various functions.

## G

**GAIN** – The amount of increase in audio signal strength, often expressed in dB.  
**GENERAL ADMISSION** – A ticket to a gig or a venue without an allocated seat.  
**GREEN ROOM** – Similar to a dressing room, the 'green room' is a holding area for an artist or band before and after they go onstage.

**GROSS PROFIT** – The total income generated, before costs are taken out.

**GUARANTEE** – A specified fee to be paid to a performer, agreed upon before a gig or concert.

## H

**HOLDS** – Tickets that can't be sold ie. holding them for someone or to reserve a specific area.  
**HOUSE** – Another term for a venue.  
**HOUSE SEATS** – Tickets or seats that the venue owner/manager retains to use for their own purposes.

## I

**INPUT** – 1) The jack or physical location of where a device receives a signal. 2) The signal being received by a device. 3) The action of receiving a signal by a device.  
**INPUT LIST** – A list of which effects are used for each channel of a mixing desk.  
**INSIDE CHARGE** – The booking fee charged by a ticket retailer.

## J

**JACK** – A connector mounted on the case of a device or on a panel.

## K/L

**LAMINATE/LANYARD** – A laminated pass worn around the neck denoting the wearer as AAA, AMA, artist, worker or crewmember.  
**LED** – A light that allows current to flow in one direction only and emits light, whenever a voltage of a certain level or beyond is applied to it. For example, a volume meter on a mixing desk.  
**LEVEL** – The amount of signal strength; the amplitude, especially the average amplitude.  
**LINE OUT (LINE OUTPUT)** – Any output that sends out a line level signal, such as the output of a console that feeds a recorder.  
**LOAD IN** – Either a time or a place to move all instruments and gear into a venue.  
**LOAD OUT** – Either a time, or a place to move all instruments and gear out of a venue.  
**LOADERS** – People who help move gear in and out of a venue.  
**LOADING BAY/DOCK** – A space to park a vehicle in order to move gear in and out of a venue.

## M

**MANAGER** – The person in charge of running the business side of an artist or band's career, so that the artist or band is free to focus on creating the music.  
**MERCH (MERCHANDISE)** – Anything that is sold at a gig or concert other than a ticket, such as t-shirts, posters and CDs.  
**MICROPHONE** – A transducer that converts sound pressure waves into electrical signals.  
**MIC PLOT** – A list of the microphones required for a gig or concert, stating what the different microphone are to be used for. See also 'stage plot'.  
**MIDI** – Short for Musical Instrument Digital Interface; a digital signal system (a system of number signals) used to communicate performance information to and from musical instruments.  
**MIX** – 1) To blend audio signals together into a composite signal. 2) The signal made by blending individual signals together. 3) A control or function on a delay effects/reverberation device that controls the amount of direct signal that will be mixed into the processed signal.  
**MIXER** – A console, or other device that blends audio signals into one or more composite signals, and has a small number of outputs.  
**MIXING DESK** – A device which can combine several signals into one or more composite signals, in any desired proportion.  
**MONITORS** – The speaker system that allows an artist or band to hear themselves onstage. See also 'foldback'.  
**MONITOR ENGINEER** – The person who mixes the on-stage sound.

## N

**NET PROFIT** – The total income generated after all bills and debts are paid (also can be net loss).

## O

**OUTPUT** – 1) The jack or physical location of where a device sends out a signal. 2) The signal put out by a device.

## P

**PA (PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM/VOCAL PA)** – An electronic amplification system with a mixer, amplifier and loudspeakers, used to reinforce a sound source, eg. a person giving a speech, a DJ playing prerecorded music, and distributing the sound throughout a venue or building.  
**PDs (PER DIEMS)** – Literally meaning 'per day', a nominal amount of money paid daily to a band, artist or crewmember, to offset the cost of being on the road ie.

buying meals etc.

**PERFORMING RIGHT** – The right to perform or communicate a work in public.  
**PICKUP** – A device on an electric guitar (or other instrument) that puts out an audio signal according to the string motion on the instrument.  
**POSTER** – A paper sign posted in a public place as an advertisement for a tour, event or concert.  
**POSTER DIMENSIONS** –  
A4: 297 x 210mm  
A3: 420 x 297mm  
A2: 594 x 420mm  
A1: 841 x 594mm  
A0: 1189 x 841mm  
OC: 1490 x 990mm

**POWER AMPLIFIER** – A device that takes a line level signal and amplifies it to drive a speaker.  
**PR (PUBLIC RELATIONS OR PRESS RELEASE)** – The promotion of a new release, tour or other music related news to the media.  
**PRESS KIT** – A tool used by musicians, labels, agents and managers to promote a group, a new release or tour. Usually includes recording, press photos and band bio.  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** – The person responsible for coordinating all different areas of a stage production, including sound, lights, stage equipment and crew.  
**PRODUCTION SPECS** – The complete list of technical specifications needed for a production, including mic plot, stage plot etc.  
**PROMOTER** – A person who is paid a percentage of income to book and promote a tour, concert or gig. Will generally underwrite the costs of the show, ie wear the financial risk.

## O/R

**RATE CARD** – The list of standard rates charged by a supplier.  
**RECON (RECONCILIATION)** – Comparing the budget and financial records of a concert or tour, to ensure all bills and debts have been paid and to determine whether a profit or loss was made.  
**RESERVED SEATING** – Tickets for specific seats within a venue.  
**REVERB** – An effect whereby the sound produced by an amplifier or an amplified musical instrument is made to reverberate slightly.  
**RIDER** – An artist or band's specific requirements for a live performance, usually just drinks and food but can include technical specifications.  
**RIFF** – A short melody repeatedly played in a tune (sometimes with variation) often between vocal lines.  
**RISERS** – A built up area on a stage that allows a musician to be more visible to the audience, generally used for drums.

## S

**SESSION MUSICIAN** – A musician that is paid a flat rate for their services, either to record or to play live.  
**SETTLEMENT** – The statement showing the profit (and loss) of a show or tour.  
**SOUND ENGINEER** – The person responsible for mixing the artist's sound at a live show.  
**SPEAKER** – A device that changes electrical signals to sound which can be heard. A transducer changing the electrical audio signal into a sound pressure wave.  
**SPLIT** – The percentage of income paid to the performer and promoter and venue, ie 80/20 split. This is usually, but not always, after costs.  
**STAGE** – The partially enclosed or raised area where live musicians perform.  
**STAGE PLOT** – The diagram given to crew members and technicians that shows where a band or artist's equipment goes on stage.  
**SUPPORT SLOT** – The opening act before the headlining artist.

## T/U

**TOUR MANAGER** – The person responsible for coordinating everything to do with an artist or band whilst on tour.  
**TROUBLESHOOTING** – In audio equipment servicing, the act of locating the source of the trouble in a malfunctioning device or system.

## V

**VOLUME** – A common, non-technical term meaning Sound Pressure Level, and loosely applied to also mean audio voltage level.

## W

**WATT** – Unit of electrical power.  
**WILL CALL** – A place to pick up complimentary tickets.

## X/Y/Z

**XLR CONNECTOR** - 1) A common three pin connector used in balanced audio connections. 2) A microphone cable.