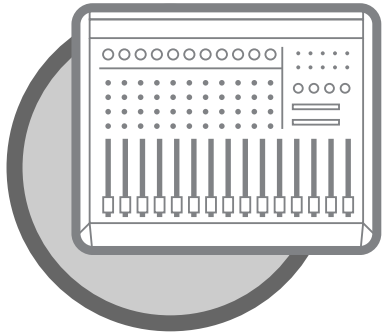
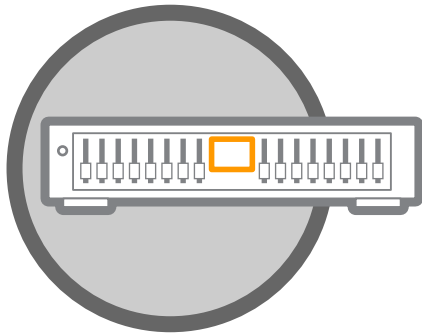


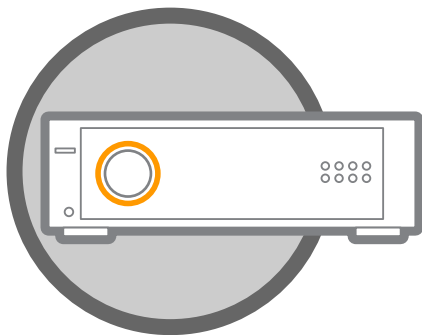
**Microphones** — either dynamic or condenser types, with the more rugged dynamic mics being more commonly found in PA's. Because the sound is captured here, mics are sometimes referred to as the front end of the sound system. (refer to or request [Shure NOTES #1/Recording Issue](#) for a more detailed explanation of dynamic and condenser microphones).



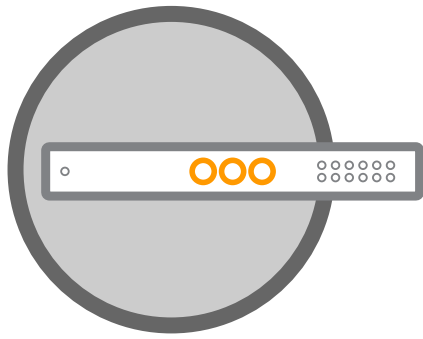
**Mixing board** (also referred to as the soundboard or the mixer) – a device with lots of knobs and faders that lets you control the volume of individual mics, monitors, effects, etc. The cables you see on the stage are used to send signals (another word for the sounds moving through the PA system) from the mics to the mixing board.



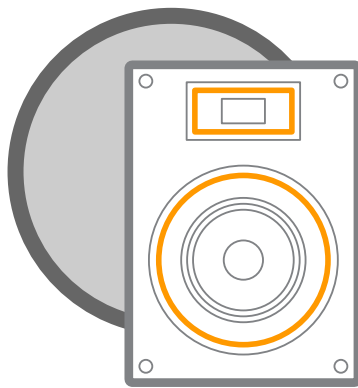
**Equalizer (EQ)** — allows specific frequency ranges to be either increased or diminished, shaping the overall sound. Contrary to popular belief, some form of EQ is used in almost every sound system – no matter how good the musicians are. In most cases, it's there to fine tune the sound system, not create the sound coming from the band.



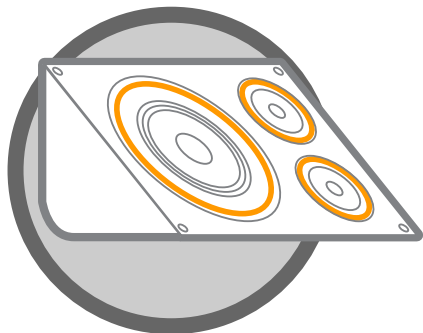
**Power Amplifier** — the power behind the sound. The amp takes the low level signal from the mixer and steps up the signal strength before sending it to the speakers.



**Effects** — help to enhance or modify the sound. The most common effects include delay (echo), reverb, and compression.



**Loudspeakers** — everything from single-cone speakers to full range speaker cabinets with “crossovers” that send different frequencies to different speakers (horns for highs, big cones for lows, etc.).



**Monitors** — traditionally, monitors are the wedge-shaped speaker cabinets that you’ve seen on the front of the stage that face back towards the musicians so they can hear themselves perform. These days, many musicians prefer the more precise and controllable in-ear monitors. Monitors are a separate system within the PA that require their own EQ and power amplifier, and often an independent mixer.