

### **Self-Evaluation of Progress**

I have to admit that I am rather satisfied with the amount of information which I have digested this semester in DAP. At first, I was afraid that this course was too untechnical for my academic needs. Now, however, I appreciate having had a broad introduction to digital audio processes upon which a more detailed study could be based. I also discovered that although this course was not mathematically inclined, I was still able to get out of it a more in depth understanding of digital audio processes than the average recording engineer possesses. At Greene Street Recording, for example, one of the staff engineers commented to me in an off hand manner, "I wonder how these things work..." He was talking about CDRs, and I was quick to explain to him the method by which the dye becomes heated by the record laser and thus creates bumps in the metal substrate and so on and so forth. This knowledge was gained from Kenneth Pohlmann's text Principles of Digital Audio in which I did a lot of side reading. Watkinson's text, to me, assumed too much of the reader, and I therefore found it useful to shadow the Watkinson readings with the equivalent chapter in Pohlmann's book. Pohlmann's writing style, in my opinion, is much more suited to the introductory reading of this topic. As far as my grade is concerned, I have to say that I do not expect anything less than an A. This course required a copious amount of weekly work, and I must confess to sometimes questioning the value of such an inordinate amount of writing. In the end, however, I never missed a class nor failed to turn in any of the assignments on time. If, as the saying goes, you get out of it what you put into it, I would conclude therefore that I got a lot out of this class. My goal for this semester was to grasp the basic mechanisms of digital audio, and I think I have at least succeeded at that.