

## Column by Renzo van Riemsdijk (Masterenzo):

### Vision!

Vision, a nice word for looking forward while mesmerizing about your work. And it has definitely got something to do with that certain dot on the horizon!

In my previous column I mentioned the differences between mastering engineers. And also differences in vision between those engineers.

The vision of an engineer says something about how he or she works. Of course, this quality is unique for every engineer and (partly) explains the differences between them.

I can imagine that a vision can have quite some influence on how we approach our work. When I speak for myself I can easily lay awake for an hour during two or three nights in a row, thinking about and pondering on room/studio acoustics and the consideration of getting that new piece of outboard gear. (Why should I buy it? Will it benefit my business workflow? Of course, it will. It's outboard!)

A big part of the way I (and my colleagues) work has to do with reflections on what we'd like to achieve by means of sound and impact of our work.

What is necessary to get there and to let music really **connect** to the listening public? Can it get better? Can I work faster without compromising quality? Two major visionary points!

I could make this a tad more abstract by asking the question what it is that causes so many records to sound so darn good. I could easily zoom in on this and keep zooming in until I start wondering if the use of a certain power cord perhaps could induce a certain quality to the sound. There are no limits to this.

Actually, the longer I think about it, the more I'll tend to zoom in on the details and the more possibilities arise. As you'll probably understand: lying awake for an hour or so per night suddenly makes a lot more sense.

But for my own wellbeing that dot on the horizon has to stay clear and focused on my radar. I don't want to lose time while going round in circles without getting closer to my target, even though I know that the moment I reach my target, the next target is already on the radar.

In this way target and vision are more or less inseparable: I'd like to master more albums, ep's and songs (target) to get better at it and to get closer to the ultimate sound (vision).

I'm afraid that our learning curve will never end and exactly that is what makes mastering such a great profession. I'm free to focus on my vision on a daily basis, without losing sight of my target(s). So that would make me ... an audio nerd! Yes indeed, and I'm proud of it!

Renzo

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*More info about mastering and about Masterenzo can be found on his [website](#).*