

Doubling the Vocals

Doubling the vocals (also called *doubletracking*) is an incredibly common trick for beefing up vocal tracks on the cheap: the singer records several very similar takes, which are then mixed together to create a very rich choral stereo effect. Classically, the best take is centered in the stereo field, with the top two runners-up panned hard left and right. This allows a singer to be a little inconsistent in each take and still sound good because, at any given instant, the listener's ear naturally focuses on the most on-key version of the three tracks. Doubling also provides a "fatter" sound because the takes are not identical and thus don't perfectly mesh. If you record vocals with both a conventional vocal mic and a Plasti-Pickup on the throat, you'll get a similar effect: each mic gets a slightly different version of the take, and the two signals fill and enrich each other rather than just overlapping and blending. Not too shabby for a few bucks in supplies and some soldering.