

Pan and Balance.

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a Pan control and a Balance control?

Well here's the answer.

The Pan control.

This is used on a mono signal to route the sound to either left or right of the mix bus.

When

in the centre position the Pan will spread the signal between left and right, resulting in a level drop. Maximum signal level is achieved only when panned hard left or right.

Try panning a consistent signal (an sine oscillator is ideal) hard to the left and watch the meter go up!

The Balance control.

This is used on stereo signals and works by attenuating the signal to the side of the mix bus

that you don't want. When you turn a balance control all the way to the left, it will reduce the level of signal to the right, but the left signal will remain constant. Maximum level is achieved only when balance is at centre.

Try turning a balance control to the left and watch the left meter stay where it is while the right meter drops!

What all this really means is that when you pan a mono sound to one side, its subjective volume in the mix will go up. When you balance a stereo signal to one side, its subjective volume in the mix will go down (although not by as much a difference as when panning). Hope that's clear then.....