

Handout 1 - Glossary of Terms

- **Phonograph** - A device invented by Thomas Edison (pictured on the right with his creation) in 1877 to record and reproduce sound. Also later known as a Gramophone.
- **Multitracking** – The process of sound recording that allows for the separate recording of multiple sound sources and the layering of sources recorded at different times
- **Sound-on-sound / Overdubbing** - An audio recording technique in which a performer listens to an existing recorded track and simultaneously plays and records a new performance along with it.
- **Tracks** - The individual layers of sound in multitrack recording
- **Mixing Board** – An electronic device used for combining multiple audio signals and changing parameters such as the volume, timbre and equalization of each. When multitracking, each microphone or signal generating source occupies a “channel” or “track” on the mixing board. Using the board, the engineer creates a balanced “mix” of the various signals that is then sent to tape.
- **Tape Loop** – A recorded section of sound or music on magnetic tape that is cut and spliced end-to-end. The tape becomes a closed “loop” that plays continuously.
- **Bouncing** - The process of recording multiple tracks of music over onto one or two tracks, thus freeing up the original tracks for further recording. When recording with 4-track machines, The Beatles, for instance, would often “bounce” tracks to make room for more overdubs.

