

Top Recording Tips – Ensure YOU get the best results

1. **Use the right studio for you** - Before making any decisions on which company you will use for recording - you are strongly advised to see / hear samples of some recent work of a similar style to your requirements that have been produced by the actual person who will be producing your work.

If you are an Electronic based band using Cubase and MIDI equipment – make sure that the studio can support this. Likewise if you are a live rock band – don't book a studio that cannot properly cater for you, or are not experienced to help you if you experience technical difficulties.

2. **Make Establish what you want to achieve from the recording session** - Are you to record a demo for your own purposes or is it to be released to the public or used as a promotional demo? Time spent will reflect in the final product.
3. **Know what material you want to record and be realistic** – From experience, for a good demo, a well rehearsed 4 piece rock band should allow anything from 3 hours per song to record and half this time again to mix down. Don't waste time arguing over which songs to record - you should have already decided this.
4. **Be well rehearsed** - And ensure that often neglected parts such as backing vocals & percussion are practiced, a badly performed instrument can often ruin a good song if put into the mix for the sake of it.
5. **Make sure your instruments are maintained** - guitars should have new strings and the intonation checked, jack socket connections and leads should be "crackle-free". Drums should be tuned and squeaky pedals oiled.
6. **Arrive on time** - minus "hangers-on". Recording can be extremely boring for those not involved in the process and unnecessary extras can often upset performances.
7. **Establish what you want to achieve from the recording session** - Are you to record a demo for your own purposes or is it to be released to the public or used as a promotional demo? Time spent will reflect in the final product.
8. **Don't panic** - If you haven't recorded before, it can be a very stressful experience and mistakes often not heard when played live can stick out like a sore thumb. Stay calm and take advice from the engineer who will talk you through the procedures to get the best possible results. Be aware that not many artists get their part right first, second or even third time! Don't let re-runs bother you. Band members should support, not mock their colleagues.
9. **"It'll fix in the mix" is a myth** - If you're not happy, redo the offending part, it's often quicker than talking about how a mistake can be hidden and listening to it over & over hoping that it will somehow correct itself. Others may not hear the mistake, but you will.
10. **Avoid mixing on...** the same day as recording, after a gig or listening to loud music, with a hangover, after taking drugs or when tired. You will easily be deceived with sounds and levels and your final product will sound different the next day.

- 11. Discuss any production ideas** you have for adding to your track with the engineer **before** starting the mixdown process, or as soon as you think of an idea.
- 12. Do not bring non-essential persons to the mixdown session.** This always proves to be disruptive and can end up costing you time and money. Bring key band members that will have a productive input into the session.
- 13. Allow plenty of time to mixdown your tracks** - Mixdown can be a lengthy process depending on the complexity of the recording. time spent on recording can be pointless if the final mix is rushed. Get an idea from the engineer on the time that will be required to mixdown your songs. advise the engineer of any good ideas you have for songs that can be added upon mixdown.
- 14. The best time to mixdown** - Arrange with us a suitable mixdown session where we can get a basic mix set up of one of your songs from the session and complete the mixdown the following day. Take a CD mix away and listen to it at home on various stereo systems. Compare it to general levels against your favourite music of a similar genre. Make notes on what you like and dislike. Discuss with the engineer and fix at the next session.
- 15. Have reference sources to hand** - Give the engineer CD's of similar genres / artists recordings that you like the sound and feel of the final mix.
- 16. Do not spend more than 6-8 hours mixing down in a single session.** Arrange with us to split your session up into reasonable time periods that everyone can maintain a decent level of concentration.
- 17. Take Regular Breaks** - Ensure that you and the engineer take short breaks away from listening to your tracks to maintain perspective during the mixdown session.
- 18. Enjoy the experience** - Recording can be a stressful experience, and although we can guide you through the process and make it a relaxing and rewarding experience, your behaviour and attitude can easily rub off on other band members in a studio environment, making it more difficult than it need be.