



STUDIOS

Comprehensive Recording Services at Competitive Prices

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Recording Checklist

You can head off a number of potential problems with your recording session by taking the actions specified in this checklist.

Preparing for the Recording Session

- Rehearse more songs than you plan to record. You never know which songs will sound strong in the final mix.
- Have all the parts worked out. Studio time is not the time to arrange songs, work out harmony vocals, or learn guitar solos.
- Think about the songs as a whole and not just the individual sounds.
- Record your songs at gigs or rehearsals. Listening to your songs can reveal weak spots that need to be fixed before entering the studio.
- Take care of your body before and during recording sessions. Eat well, rest well, and keep your ears rested and clear.
- If additional musicians are being used, develop a schedule and make sure your artists know what it is.
- Put on new strings and carry spares.
- Organize your stuff well in advance of leaving for the studio. Don't wait until the last minute to gather together everything that will be needed for the recording session.

The Recording Session

- Show up on time.
- Don't use new or different stuff you haven't used before. Surprises can cause problems.
- Make sure the engineer knows your "vision" of the songs.
- Remember, it's emotion and feeling that make the best song, not necessarily the best technical rendering.
- If you mess up while recording, DON'T STOP! Keep going, fix mistakes later.
- Keep in mind the focus of your music. If it is the vocals, plan to spend the most time on them. Don't waste energy on things that do not keep the focus on the song.
- Plan to record all the tracks clean and add effects later.
- Keep guests and distractions out of the studio.
- TUNE UP OFTEN!
- Know when to stop for the day. When you are tired, it shows.

Adapted from *Are You Ready to Record?* by Splatcat Records, Culver, Indiana