

Equipment for a small/home studio Recording set Up on a budget

If you are not on a budget, please don't read this list. It is not for you...

For the rest of us, studios on a budget that makes sense, don't waste your time testing dozens of equipment pieces, researching online or asking around. Test yes but start with this list. We've already been around testing all of this equipment plus consulted with many recording engineers. They have listened with us and made recommendations for all of this equipment in different budget levels. The best of each group. They have worked in Rock/ New Age/Salsa/Latin/Latin jazz/Classical/World Music/Andean and Jazz Styles. Not to mention we have recorded now over 50 CD/Projects. One of our engineers has 500 CDS/projects of experience under his belt in Latin America:

So here is the list on the cheap side walk:

STUDIO CANS

- 1-Grado Prestige Series SR60i Headphones (best headphones at any price) \$79.00 New
- 2-Sony MDR 7506 Around \$80 New
- 3-Sony MDR 7505- Around \$80 New
- 4-Sony MDR 7502 - Around \$50 New

CANS FOR THE ARTISTS YOU ARE RECORDING/WORKING WITH

- 1-Sennheiser HD201 or Sennheiser HD201 (equally good and cost about the same) \$25 New

MICROPHONES

VOCALS

These top three mics for vocals, kick overhead drums and String instruments. No particular order of preference. But if you have the money get at least the Sure and something else on these list.

- 1-Shure SM7b around \$380 new
- 2-Sennheiser MD421 around \$380 new
- 3-Electro Voice re-20 around \$400 new
- 4-Heil PR-40 around \$325 new still good option in the same type of mic

DRUMS

- Karma K-10 at <http://www.karmamics.com> \$149
- Karma K-SB7 K-Micro 7 pieces Silver Bullet Pack \$79!!!! (will mic an entire drum kit with great quality)
- One (or better yet, two of these) Moded 319 Or 219 Oktavas
(* you may have the Oktava 319 or 219 that you own modified by any of these companies. At the end you will have a mic that sounds like a \$2000 mic. We tried their mods, they work just great:

<http://www.oktavamod.com>

<http://www.billsrecording.com>)

- Nady DMK-3 (three mics) Drum mic package \$100 New
- Nady DMK-7 (seven mics) Drum Mic package \$190 New
- CAD Premium 7-Piece Drum Mic Pack \$250 New
- Audix FP5 Drum Mic Pack \$330 New

GENERAL PURPOSE

- At least two Shure SM57 \$80 new (for snare drums, toms, congas, bongos, cajon and guitar cabs)
- Audio Technica AT-2020 \$80 new
- Audio Technica AT-3035 \$210 new
- Audio Technica AT-4040 \$300 new
- AKG Perception 100 \$100 new
- AKG Perception 220 \$180 new
- CAD GXL1200 SDC condensers, for \$50. Nice on overheads, not splashy, handles SPLs, good tone. We think a little sensitive/clicky on attack if you are close micing acoustic guitars, but you might want it that way. I still like the MXL 603/993 SDCs, but the CAD may be better for less.

PREAMPS

Sorry kids, in this category you get what you pay for (exception made of a couple preamps: True P-Solo and Grace designs M101, much more bang for your buck!!!)

EXPENSIVE

- 1-Great River ME-1NV About \$1150 New
- 2-Avalon M5 Mono About \$1600 New

MID WAY

- 1-Grace Designs M101 about \$565 New
- 2- A-Designs P-1 Mic Pre/Di in Compact 500 Series around \$795 New

\$400 - \$500

- 1-True P-Solo \$535 New. Around \$400 in eBay (this Particular pre really flirts with the big boys
Avalons, Great Rivers, Manleys, etc. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!)
- 2-Eureka PreSonus pre amp around \$499 New
- 3-Joemeek SixQ Mic Pre \$500 (including matching mic)

\$280 - \$400

- 1- PreSonus Studio Channel Tube Channel Strip \$299 new
- 2- Golden Age Project pre-73 around \$290 new (very, very, very nice!!!!, Did I say nice already???? Much more quality for the price!!!!)

VERY CHEAP

\$100 - \$200

- 1-M-Audio DMP3 around \$145 new
- 2-Rane MS 1S \$199 new
- 3-Studio Projects VTB-1 around \$140 new

Don't go any lower than this in price...!!!!!!

REVERBS

If you can get your hands on a Behringer V-verb outboard reverb ... Is totally discontinued. So very close to the Lexicon PCM91 (at \$1K on ebay, or higher). Beautiful sounding verb that used to cost only \$79. I've owned several outboard verbs in the \$600 range that were inferior .. the v-verb has the thick wall-of-sound magic.

DIGIDESIGN

Try to mod your 002 at

<http://www.blacklionaudio.com>

your preamps will sound 100 times better!!!

RECORDING MIXER

-For the 12 awesome preamps you get, plus compression, EQ and FX in every one of the 24 channels, the hard disk recorder AKAI DPS 24 (\$1500 in EBAY) you can mix in this board with automation or pass your wave files to your computer later.

-Preonus StudioLive 1642 \$2000, great preamps, FXS, compression, etc and great for mixing your tracks later too \$2000 – AMAZING MACHINE!!!!!!

-Preonus StudioLive 24.4.2