

**GETTING THE MOST
FROM YOUR**

RECORDING SESSION



1. MAKE A PLAN

You don't want to waste any time in the studio do you? You're paying for it after all, probably by the hour. You'll save a lot of time if you turn up on the day knowing exactly what you're planning to achieve. Things don't always go according to plan, but give yourself the best shot by having one in the first place.

Make sure you speak with your producer and you both agree on what the goal for the session will be. Are you going to focus on one song or several? Will you get all the vocals recorded or lay down different instruments? Will time be set aside for mixing, or will that happen in another session? Try to have these questions answered before you walk into the studio.

2. PRACTICE

You might know your music back to front, but remember that as soon as you 'hit record' you're likely to feel some added pressure. Make sure that you're heading into the session full of confidence. Increase your confidence by practicing as much as you can, ironing out any tricky parts before the day. Better to put in the hours at home than pay for them in the studio.



3. CHOOSE REFERENCES

Getting the right sound can be so much easier when you have some references in mind - tracks or artists whose sound you love. Pick some music that can act as a sonic compass and help you work in the right direction.

You could take bits and pieces from different tracks. For instance, you might love the vocal effects on one song, and the groove from another. Or you might have a particular guitar tone in mind from a favourite band. Don't make your list too long, but select some key references to help you define your own sound.

4. SHARE FILES

Are you using any backing tracks? Or previously recorded takes? Make sure your producer has these. The earlier the better, especially if they need to be set up in time for the recording session.

When you've chosen your reference tracks, make sure to send these to your producer too. You could make a reference playlist to share, with a few additional notes highlighting the parts you like.



5. CHECK INSTRUMENTS

There's nothing worse than turning up for a session with your guitar, only to find that the pick-up isn't working any more. Before heading to the session, check all the instruments you're going to use. Now is the time to replace strings, batteries and do any maintenance work that's required.

If you'll be singing, remember that your voice is an instrument that requires a lot of care. If you do late-night karaoke the day before the session, you won't be on top form when it comes to recording. Aim to get a good night's sleep and drink plenty of water in the run-up to the session.

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