

## **Pre-Studio Checklist**

- Practice as much as possible before the days/weeks leading up to the scheduled studio time. It will save you money and frustration.
- Prepare basic session information prior to entering the studio (a flash drive, email or a dropbox link). This includes:
  - Song Title
  - Tempo (a MIDI tempo map if there are tempo changes present)
  - Key
  - Instrument tunings
  - Lyrics
- Ensure that you can play the song to a metronome (this mostly applies to drummers).
- If you have any demos/pre-production recordings send them to me beforehand or bring them on the first day of studio time.
- If you want samples present in your music:
  - Make sure they are legally cleared for use.
  - Supply a WAV file of the sample(s) with a minimum quality of 16 bit 44.1 kHz sample rate.

## **Comfort**

- Studio time is primarily long arduous work. In some cases, prepare yourself for 12 hour days. Ensure you:

- Wear comfortable clothing
- Get plenty of rest the night before
- If your whole band will be with you, prepare yourself for extensive downtime.

Sitting in on sessions with other band members or backseat engineering may harm the process so I recommend you bring: a pair of headphones, a laptop/tablet and/or a portable gaming system.

- Any food or snacks you may want.
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## **Guitars**

- Put fresh strings on your guitar(s) the day before the session.
- Make sure your guitars are properly set-up for your respective tunings. If this is outside your budget/time constraints then I can provide a quick set-up.
- Ensure all your electronics are in working order, don't crackle and don't cut out.
- Bring at least two extra sets of strings if recording 1-3 songs. Bring another two extra sets for every three songs over that.
- Any allen keys, wrenches, etc.
- New spare 9v batteries for active pickups and/or pedals.
- Any power adapters you need for your pedal board and/or amp.
- Picks! A lot of them. At the least, two picks per song.
- A tuner

## **Bass Guitars**

- Put fresh strings on your bass the day before the session.
- Make sure your basses are properly set-up for your respective tunings. If this is outside your budget/time constraints then I can provide a quick set-up.
- Ensure all your electronics are in working order, don't crackle and don't cut out.
- Bring an extra set of strings if recording 1-3 songs. Bring an extra set for every three songs over that.
- Any allen keys, wrenches, etc.
- New spare 9v batteries for active pickups and/or pedals.
- Any power adapters you need for your pedal board and/or amp.
- Picks! A lot of them. At the least, two picks per song.
- Bring felt picks if you want to cut down on pick attack.
- A tuner

## **Drums**

- Tuning key
- Fresh heads for all drums
- A spare set of batter heads and:
  - Another spare snare batter head for every 3 songs.
  - Another spare set of tom batter heads for every 5 songs.
- Expect to spend time tuning drums before the session begins.
- No cracked or broken cymbals, replace them, if necessary.
- No squeaky hardware or missing parts.
- Make sure everything from stands to your throne is tightened properly.
- Extra felts for your cymbals.
- If possible, only use straight stands for your cymbals.
- Avoid boom stands.
- Bring at least one set of sticks per song being recorded, two extra pairs for warm up/practice/spares.

## **Vocals**

- Have lyrics printed out or emailed to yourself.
- I can provide water, please bring any other drinks you may need.
- Do not consume dairy products within 4 hours of your session.
- Invest in a good warm-up routine, you'll be using your voice a lot.
- Bring tea or throat spray.
- Don't exert your voice in the days leading up to the session.

### **Keys**

- Bring all MIDI. 1/4" TRS cables, and power adapters.
- Have your patches programmed and easily accessible.
- Stands

### **Horns/Wind**

- Bring extra mouthpieces/reeds.
- Make sure the instrument is in proper working order and isn't producing unnecessary noise.
- Grease/lubricants and valve oils.
- Cleaning/polishing cloth and a spit rag.

### **Strings**

- Resin
- Put fresh strings on the instrument the day before the session.
- A spare set of strings
- Tuner