

Preparing for your Session

Welcome to StudioLSE! We provide the highest quality of recording packages the industry has to offer. Below are some guidelines to help you make the most of your experience with us. Please take a moment to go over them; we look forward to working with you!

General Tips

- Be rested. Studio work can be long and fatiguing so make sure to get a good night's rest.
- Show up ready and on time. It's your money and you don't want to waste it by being late or disorganized.
- Be patient. Studio recording is a time-consuming process when done right.
- Practice thoroughly. Bad playing is bad playing no matter how good the recording process. Have your music prepared when you arrive at the studio. Make sure to practice with a metronome so that your playing is in time. It will also benefit you to be able to isolate different aspects of your playing: for example, if you sing and play guitar simultaneously, be ready to play each part separately.

Vocalists

You may or may not know, for singers, the whole body is an instrument and must be treated with great care, especially when planning to record. Eating healthy, exercising, getting plenty of rest, and trying to stay stress free should be a daily occurrence. The week of your recording session, be sure to memorize your lyrics and rehearse the music several times. Practice your breathing exercises and warm-up routines adamantly for about an hour. These tips will help to ensure your voice stays strong throughout the recording session. Abstain from partying the night before and get to bed at a reasonable time.

On the day of, try to do light physical warm ups and stretches to loosen up the body. Also do some vocal warm-ups so as not to waist time once in the studio. Bring an ample amount of water and eat no less than 2 hours before the session. Dress comfortably and bring all your sheet music and lyrics.

Guitarists

Put new strings on your guitar the day before your session and make sure to stretch them out so they'll stay in tune. Putting graphite on the string nut is a good way to help avoid breaking strings, and using a graphite bridge is even better. It's also a good idea to have your guitar inspected by a professional technician before coming to ensure that the action is set at the desired height, the neck is not bent, and that tuning and intonation are correct.

On the day of the session, bring a tuner, cloth, extra picks, an extra set of strings, and if necessary, an Allen wrench. If you're using pedals, bring cables (usually the 2-3 inch TRS cables work best for linking pedals together) and new batteries for them. If you have a pedal board that will power your effects with AC current, bring it (as it is preferable to using batteries), and be sure to preset all the patches, settings off your effects. If your rig is noisy, you may want to invest in a noise reduction pedal.

Bassists

Put new strings on your bass the day before your session and make sure to stretch them out so they'll stay in tune. Make sure there is no string buzz as this can really hurt a mix. See a technician to ensure that the bass has a straight neck, appropriate action, good frets, and proper tuning and intonation. Make sure all the electronics are working and that your rig is quiet. If your bass is active then make sure to change the batteries. Bring any gear you use to achieve your tone, including picks, EQ pedals, direct boxes, or anything else. Finally, as part of the rhythm section, it is particularly important that bassists be able to play their parts in time.

Drummers

Make sure the skins and heads are in good shape. Tighten the screws and make sure there is no squeaking. Don't forget to wipe and clean the cymbals. Show up to the recording session with your drums tuned; if you need help with this please call us as we have drummers on staff that can be hired to tune your drums. Drummers are the rhythmic backbone of a band: practice with a metronome and come to the studio with your parts in time.

Keyboardists

If you bring your own keyboards, make sure to preset any patches you'll need: this will save you a lot of time. All the sound designing should be done before the recording session. If you are using multiple keyboards, make sure the cables are as short as possible and aren't producing any unwanted noise. Clean the cable jacks and keyboard inputs.

Brass

You should check tuning carefully with changes in temperatures and seasons. Ensemble size can also affect temperatures in smaller rooms and consequently the tuning of your instrument. Therefore make sure you know exactly what to expect on the day of recording.

The Do's and Don'ts

- Tuning should be done before the recording session.
- You should bring a towel to absorb the saliva from your instrument
- Put oil pistons on the day you come to studio or at least one day before your session begins.
- Don't forget to bring all the accessories you will need, such as your mute and tuner.
- Please do not clear out your instrument on our floors.



Conclusion

We hope that you realize how important it is to prepare yourself appropriately before entering the studio. Thorough practicing and proper instrument care are the most important factors in the recording process. It's also a good idea to practice recording yourself at home (if not with a multi track recorder then at least with a tape recorder) to get a sense for how you sound when recorded. This is essential to achieving the performance results you want to bring to the studio. Remember that good equipment is nothing without good playing, so focus your attention on the latter. Doing your part well allows us to do our part well. Our engineers are friendly, patient, and have the skills to give your recording a professional sound and quality. We know you'll enjoy your experience with us and we look forward to working with you.

The StudioLSE Staff