

Tight Digital Studio

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Useful information to consider before going into the studio to record.

Firstly it's a good idea to make sure that everyone concerned will be available on the days that you book. The studio time will have to be paid for even if your lead guitarist is on holiday so consider this carefully before booking your time.

Do you know your material well enough? Make sure that you have learned all of the songs inside out or you'll end up using the studio time to rehearse.

Have some idea about how you want the finished recording to sound. Many things are possible in the studio that are difficult to achieve in a live setting so consider if you may want to enhance your songs with extra sounds and/or instruments.

Don't be late!

Talk to the studio about any requirements you have well before your sessions start in case special arrangements have to be made.

Only the required musicians should attend the sessions. It may seem exciting at first but it soon gets very boring and then the waiting musicians often distract the ones who are trying to perform the take of a lifetime.

Elect a single spokesperson if possible to work with the engineer/producer during production and mixing. A whole band tend to have a range of ideas of how the mix should sound usually involving "you can't hear me very well" which ends up in a sonic mess. Be guided by the engineer who will endeavour to achieve what you want. He's also used to how the monitors and room sound.

We always suggest taking away a mix then waiting a few days before you commit to a duplication run, just in case you change your mind about anything.

Allow for some extra time if possible as things often take longer than you think.

Instruments always sound best with new strings, skins etc and they should be tuned up before each take, bring any spares with you that you might need.

Everyone, particularly vocalists should avoid drinking, smoking and taking any non-prescription drugs before a session. A good nights sleep always helps too!

Have a break when you need one, it often helps to focus after you've had some fresh air and a cuppa.

Have fun!

Trev Wilkins. Tight Digital Studio.