

Pre-Studio Preparations/Recommendations

Before heading into a recording studio there are a few technical preparations (mostly dealing with having instruments ready to go) that will make for a smoother and more enjoyable session.

1) All guitars and basses should be setup and intonated by a professional technician. Nothing is worse for a musician than to fight an instrument that is out of tune with itself. Save yourself from this frustration (and time and money wasted) and get every instrument that comes to the studio worked on before the session date. I myself use and recommend Brett Allen:

www.brettallenstudiorental.com

2) If new strings are to be put on instruments, this should be done the day *before* going into the studio- especially basses. Flat wounds do not necessarily need to be re-strung.

3) It should go without saying but get your amp(s) working before bringing them to the studio. You'd be shocked how often this doesn't happen. There are many great amp technicians but I use and recommend Bob Dixon at Amphole in Burbank: (818) 729-7944, amphole@sbcglobal.net

4) For guitars and basses, I use and recommend Peterson tuners. These are the blue strobe tuners that are available as stand alone and rack mount units, stomp boxes, and even iPhone app (under \$10!). www.petersontuners.com They are by far the most accurate and reliable. As a musician I think they're the easiest and fastest to use once you get used to them. There is a little learning curve but once you see how it works, it makes life much easier. I recommend getting one for your setup so that you can get used to being in tune *all the time*. In any case, the *same* tuner should be used by all of the musicians for all instruments for all of the recording. Different tuners read differently and by not using the same one, all kinds of tuning hell can be brought on this Earth, into a studio near you... not fun, not recommended.

5) A great sounding drum recording starts with (drum roll please...) great sounding, well-tuned drums. I've called on and worked with John Oreshnick at Angel City Drum Works for many sessions and couldn't make a higher recommendation. (Looking at his client list, I am not the only one.) He has a great collection of drums for rent and works extremely well with drummers to help them get the sound they desire whether or not they use his instruments. He's also helped friends that I've sent to him purchase drums so that they wind up hitting a great kit *all the time*. He also is great for cartage. John is also a great guy. <http://www.angelcitydrumworks.com>

6) Be sure to bring extra strings, drum heads, batteries, picks, sticks, etc. to the studio. These cheap items can become *very* expensive when you factor in the time waiting around the studio for someone to make a trip to the music store to get a session rolling again! Not fun, not cheap, not recommended.

StevenRhodes.com