Home Studio Gear Guide

Computer

My Personal Choice: Mac Mini

This is what I had in my home studio for years. It's got more than enough power to handle larger sessions with lots of plugins. I recommend maxing out the RAM and going for a solid-state hard drive for optimal performance.

For Music-Makers On The Go: MacBook Pro

A great choice for music-makers who want to be able to compose or mix on the go. This is my system of choice today. The biggest downside is the computer's fan noise, which is often loud enough to leak into recordings. Be prepared.

The Absolute Best: Mac Pro

The newer, cylindrical ones are ideal—but I still see the classic Mac Pro towers all over major recording studios. If you can afford it, this is the Rolls Royce of computers.

While there are plenty of PCs out there that may work well for music-making, I prefer Macs. In general, I find them to be more stable and reliable, and thus, a better choice for music-makers.

Audio Interface

1 Mic Preamp

[Focusrite Scarlett Solo](#)

[Apogee One](#)

2 Mic Preamps

[Focusrite Clarett 2Pre](#)

[Apogee Duet](#)

4 Mic Preamps

[Focusrite Clarett 4Pre](#)

[Apogee Quartet](#)

8 Mic Preamps

[Focusrite Clarett 8Pre](#)

[Apogee Element 88](#)

Microphone

Large-diaphragm, cardioid condenser mics are quite flexible—so I've recommended my favorites here. If you'll be recording a lot of guitar amps, I also recommend picking up a [Shure SM57](#).

Under $100

[Audio-Technica AT2020](#)

[sE Electronics X1 A](#)

Under $250

[Rode NT-1A](#)

[Audio-Technica AT2050](#)

Under $500

[AKG C214 Audio-Technica](#)

[AT4033/CL](#)

[Rode NT-2A](#)

+ Mic Stand: [On-Stage Stands MS7701B](#)
+ Pop Filter: [On-Stage Stands ASFSS6GB](#)

Dynamic microphones can also be great choices for home studios. The [Shure SM7B](#) and [SM57](#) are excellent options, as well as the [Electrovoice RE-20](#).

Studio Monitors

Under $300 (Pair)

[KRK ROKIT 5 G3](#)

[JBL LSR305](#)

Under $600 (Pair)

[KRK ROKIT 8 G3](#)

[JBL LSR308](#)

[Focal Alpha 50](#)

+ Speaker Stands: [On-Stage Stands SMS6000](#)

Headphones

Under $100

[Sennheiser HD 280 (closed-back)](#)

[Shure SRH440 (closed-back)](#)

Under $250

[Sennheiser HD 380 (closed-back)](#)
[Beyerdynamic DT 990 (closed-back)](#)

Under $500

[Sennheiser HD 650 (open-back)](#)

<u>DAW</u>

Pro Tools

Pro Tools is my DAW of choice. It excels at audio editing, and many mixers prefer it over all other DAWs. It's also a staple in most major recording studios. If you plan on taking your sessions to larger studios to track drums or other instruments, I recommend Pro Tools for compatibility reasons.

Pro Tools' MIDI editing functionality is subpar. If you're doing a lot of composing or sample-based production, you may prefer one of the two DAWs below.

Logic

Logic is a great DAW for producers and beatmakers. It has much better MIDI editing functionality than Pro Tools, and has been around long enough to be a stable platform for music creation. For mixing, I'd rather use Pro Tools—but if you're a producer or songwriter, you may prefer Logic. The built-in instruments and samples included with Logic are excellent too. Unfortunately, this DAW is Mac-only.

Ableton Live

Ableton Live is a modern, highly flexible DAW. It's a favorite of many electronic/EDM

beatmakers and producers, due to its flexible sampling and audio warping functionality. If you'll be producing EDM or experimental electronic music, this may be the DAW for you.

MIDI Keyboard

The Akai series is excellent. I recommend the [Akai MPK249](#).

This PDF features affiliate links. If you choose to purchase products through these links, I will receive a small commission.

Many of the recommendations in this guide were originally published as part of my TuneCore article, [How To Set Up A Home Recording Studio: The Complete Guide](#).

Discover The Keys To Crafting **Radio-Ready Mixes** That Sound Clear, Punchy, And Professional.

MIX BY DESIGN

Mix By Design is an online training course that will teach you how to mix like a pro. You'll discover a simple, step-by-step system you can use to **break through overwhelm, sink into the creative flow, and make your best mixes yet.**

"I went from having a mix I was constantly needling and nitpicking to a mix that I was like — YES, that's where I want to be. That mix sounds big...that mix sounds pro." - Christopher Woudstra

"I just finished a new song that is my best work to date by using Jason's system." - Brian Watts

Ready to get on the path to pro mixes?