



## Evergroove Guide to the Recording Session

Welcome to Evergroove Studio! We hope you thoroughly enjoy your recording sessions with us. To make sure you have as much fun as possible, we have put together the following tips. We encourage you to look over the suggestions below before you come into the studio to make sure your session proceeds as smoothly as possible.

1. Before your session, make sure you know your tunes! We don't want you to waste your money on practicing your music.. Make sure you know all of your music, which parts you really like, and which parts you might want to throw away. This applies to all aspects of the music including background vocals, all instruments, dub-ins, etc. You might want to record a practice or two and evaluate how you sound before you come into the studio. Having your songs down pat will save you a lot of time and money.
2. Have fun! You can tell when other musicians are having a good day or a bad day when they perform ... others can tell the same thing about you.
3. Make sure you bring all the equipment needed to create your particular sound, such as guitars, effects, drums, shakers, bass strings, etc. Also be sure you bring spare parts for your instruments and effects, such as pedal batteries, guitar strings, and drum sticks. You can use our gear, or rent gear that you do not have, but realize that the sound you are used to comes from the equipment you are used to.
4. Make sure all of your instruments are ready to go when you arrive. Because we are hooking you and your instruments up to a lot of gear, we need to be sure any buzzes or strange noises are not coming from the instruments themselves. (Tracking down those noises can take a lot of time.). Try putting new heads on drums and new strings on guitars and other stringed instruments a couple days before you come in. Your recording session is also a great excuse to have your instruments professionally tuned up or set up ... just be sure you check out the sound once the pro is done to make sure the instrument sounds it's best.
5. Don't invite people to the studio who are not working on your project; we do not have the room. Also, extra folks can serve as an expensive distraction when you are trying to focus on your music. If you want to bring someone in to do backing vocals or such, please arrange for them to come by at a specific time so we can be prepared to lay down their tracks.
6. Recording your music, especially for the first time, is an involved process, and there is some background work that needs to be done before we hit RECORD. Realize that for a full album, for example, a full day might be required to get the general sound down right. Drums take longer than other instruments. Again, doing your pre-recording homework (tuned instruments, knowing the songs) will help reduce the setup time and will get you recording faster than if you are not prepared.
7. Each type of recording is different. Demos do not have the same quality as a final EP or album, and the work that needs to be done to achieve each level of quality is different. Album quality will take much longer to record. The general rule of thumb is one song per day, which includes setting up, basic tracks, overdubs, and mixing.. Each layer of recording work happens at once as opposed to each song being fully done before you go to the next. For example, laying down the basic tracks (drums, guitar, bass) might take one or two days.. The next two or three days might be spent on additional tracks, such as overdubs and extras. Depending on the complexity of the songs, we can mix two or three songs a day. These are just guidelines... things could go more quickly or more slowly depending on how well prepared you are and how complex the music is.

## **To master or not to master ... that is the question**

A mastering engineer can add the “frosting” to your album. They will listen to your album or EP to make sure the entire thing sounds cohesive. They determine what needs a little more compression, volume, etc. These changes might be very subtle, but they can make a big difference in the final product. If you have ever heard an album where one song was louder than the next, or things sounded kind of “off”, then you very well may have been listening to an album that was not mastered. The mastering engineer may also provide CD duplication preparation services.

Now why does Evergroove *not* provide mastering services? Mastering should always be done by a set of fresh ears. The mastering engineer is taking a listen to the entire album and making adjustments that the mixing engineer may have missed. As with any type of project, being too close to the work can make you blind to minor mistakes. The mastering engineer is the “proofreader” who can fix those little problems.

For mastering, we highly recommend Airshow Mastering in Boulder. We have worked with several mastering engineers there and have only glowing compliments for their work. It’s not hard to understand why they win Grammy’s, and they are right here in the Denver area!