

Studio gears :

The Myth : “a Pro studio should be recording using Pro Tools . . .” Yeah right !! . . .

The “affordable” Pro Tools set-up is heavily computer based. **Computers will crash.** Computer platforms become obsolete faster than a one night stand. The affordable systems have reliability issues because the computer is doing everything but brew your coffee.

Reliable good-sounding Pro Tools set-up easily costs \$25,000 and up, which includes control surface, converters, and arrayed HD system. You rarely find these set ups in studios within your budget.

A “**Stand-alone DAW**” are **inherently more reliable** simply because it does only one thing . . . record music. It won't do word processing or e-mails, but hey, you have a computer to do that. It is just simply more reliable. The software/hardware compatibility is rock solid; they were designed for each other.

7 South Studio is a digital recording media studio. (stand-alone DAW, not “computer based”)

Recorders : 3 Tape Based ADATS (2 LX's and a “grey face”- mainly used for transfers).

A stand-alone 24 track Hard disk recorder (Alesis HD24) for additional tracks and 24 channel A/D converter.

A stand-alone DAW - Roland VS2480HD with full recall automation on 48 tracks at mix.

Alesis Masterlink 2-track HD reorder - Mixdown / Mastering deck

and of course a cassette deck, a DAT machine & Audio CD burner.

Console / Automation : Ultramix VCA automation for analog mixing.

Mackie 8 bus (24 channels - mainly used for tracking / monitor mixes)

Mixing is done on the VS2480, - 48 fully automated & recallable tracks when synced with the HD24

Mix down is to the Alesis Masterlink mastering deck and CD burner (2 track HD - 24/96K capable)

Microphones: Studio Projects C1 & TB-1 (tube). MXL V69 (tube) & V67. ADK Hamberg edition, Rode NT2, AKG C3000B, AKG C1000B, MXL 603, Beyer M series, CAD drum mics and more.

Mic-pres : (2) M-Audio Tampa with digital I/O, (4) Studio Projects VTB-1, (2) Focusrite Voicemaster and a Voicemaster Pro. With digital I/O & more.

Studio Piano : Roland FP3 88-key weighted hammer action with MIDI (superb piano feel and sound)

Studio Guitars: (*electric*) Fender Stagemaster, Fender Jaguar (late 60's), Fender P Bass (early 70's), Peavey Fretless - (*acoustic*) Guild 12 string with pick up, Guild 6 string with pick up and Yamaha classical. There is a Line-6 Bass POD and a Line-6 Flextone II guitar amp available.

Outboard Processors / Effects : Roland - SDV3000, SDD3000, SDV3030D and four VS8-F2 fx brd. in the VS2480, Sony MRU201, Lexicon LXP15, TC M-One, (2) Yamaha SPX90, REV-5. JBL/Urei compressor, Alesis compressor, Ashley Comp/limiter, Antares ATR-1, TC Helicon vocal harmonizer, Lucid GenX6 - master clock and other odds and ends.

Computer based (PC) and MIDI : MOTU 2408 - capable of 24 bit 48K digital recording / transfers. MOTU Midi Express XT for controlling up to 8 MIDI outputs. Evolution UC33e - MIDI parameter controller.

Software : Cakewalk SONAR - full DAW / MIDI sequencer (VS 2480 can be configured as the control surface). Ableton Live - ACID / WAV. / AIFF. Loop based and MIDI sequencer. Band In A Box - Chord based 5 part accompaniment / arrangement software.

Sampler / Sound Modules / Synths : Roland Fantom XR - sampler / sound module. Roland JV1080, Roland D110, Roland SC55, Roland R8, Korg M3R, Kawai K1R, Kawai K4, EMU Proteus and Alesis D4.

My rooms :

We are a physically small studio. In the past we've been referred to as the “*Best damn hole-in-the-wall studio in Santa Barbara*”. We have 2 isolation booths, a main room, a kitchen and the control room. These are not rooms designed by an acoustical engineer. Therefore the rooms have a “sound character”. Other engineers who have not worked in my rooms may become frustrated. After 15+ years of working with these rooms, I know them intimately. This allows me to produce recordings that are at least equal to or usually better than other studios with acoustically engineered rooms.