

5 tips for recording your music with no budget

from [Riverbank Studios](#)

Recording your music can be a daunting task for many people who are just starting out and there are many things to consider, not least where to record and how much money it will cost. Professional recording can be an expensive process (for good reasons) but that doesn't mean you can't make good recordings at home with some thoughtful considerations.

Today's technology means that anybody with a phone or a laptop can make a recording of themselves playing at home and upload it to the internet, with the possibility that your track might become a hit. Below are some tips on how to get the most out of a home recording using nothing but the built-in voice recording app on your phone:

1. Pick Your Spot

Think about where you are going to record yourself and how the location is going to impact upon the sound. Room acoustics and background noise play a huge part in any recording - professional or otherwise - so picking the right space is important. Ideally, find yourself a nice 'dead' sounding room (not somewhere echoey like a bathroom or a big empty hall) where you won't be interrupted, and more importantly where you will feel comfortable performing. This could be your bedroom or even a quiet classroom after school. Make sure you close the windows too to stop any unwanted sounds from traffic or passers-by.



2. Tune Up

This is probably the most important tip of all, and shouldn't just be reserved for when you are recording. Always, always, always make sure you are in tune before you start! Tuners are incredibly cheap and there are even plenty of free guitar tuner apps available to download so there is no excuse for your instrument being out of tune. You might have written amazing song but if the first chord of the track sounds horribly out of tune, your listener is definitely going to skip straight to the next song. Make sure to tune up every time!



3. Do a Soundcheck and Listen Back

Once you've found a suitable place to record yourself and you've tuned your instruments, you should now do a soundcheck in the form of a test recording and listen back to see how it sounds. This will help you decide the best spot in the room to place your phone. If you're playing in a band and the drummer is too loud, move the microphone further away



from the drummer in the room. If you're playing guitar and singing by yourself but it feels too quiet, move the microphone closer to you. There are no set rules and sounds will change depending on the room you're in so take your time to position the microphone, listening back until you're happy that the recording sounds well balanced and everything is as clear as it can be.

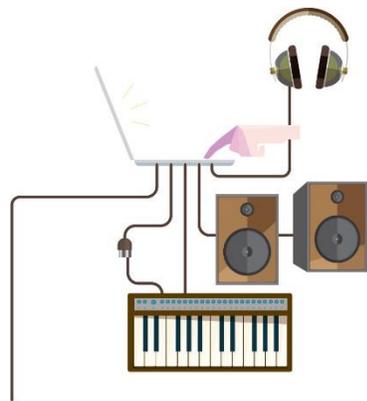
4. Make sure it's your best performance

This is another super important point. Never rush through your recording in one take and say "that'll do". Ask yourself, is this the best performance of my song that I can deliver? Remember that you don't get a second chance to make a first impression, and if your listeners are hearing you for the first time, your performance should be as good as it possibly can be.



Don't be afraid to ask for help either, maybe you're a great songwriter with an amazing voice but you're not so confident on piano - do you have a friend or a teacher who can play piano really well? Ask them to help you by playing on the recording. Recording artists use session musicians all the time to help them get the best recordings possible and you can do this too! Collaboration is fun and almost always turns out better results.

5. Listen back and edit



So you've got your recording finished and you're really happy with how it sounds; it's time to upload it, right? Not quite! You might be super eager to share it with the world but it's important to take the time to listen back and cut out any sounds that shouldn't be there. For example, if there's 10 seconds of shuffling around at the start of your recording whilst you get comfortable, make sure you cut that out before you upload it. As I mentioned earlier, you only get one chance to make a first impression so make sure that the moment your listener presses play, the song starts straight away!

One final thing to consider is: what if you've nailed an absolutely perfect performance but halfway through recording it someone knocked on your door? Or perhaps you just messed up one note in the last chorus of the song, should you scrap the whole thing and record it again even though you know that performance was "the one"? Not necessarily.

Whilst the location and quality of your recording is important, the thing that listeners connect with above everything else is the song and the performance. If you've written an amazing song and delivered a great performance with a few tiny mistakes, don't sweat it! There are countless examples of hugely successful tracks that aren't "perfect" but are incredibly well written, and performed with honesty and emotion. Focus on writing great songs and performing them in a way that your audience will be completely convinced by what you're saying, and the rest will fall into place.