

Free Resource

Guide To Home Recording

Tips & Tricks to home/ remote recording

By CreateMyVoiceReel.com

Overview

Home recording can be a very rewarding experience that allows you the opportunity to market yourself services as a remote voice artist and also enables you to produce your own content as a creative.

Remote voice artist - home studio

Since the pandemic, we observed a large portion of voice work going remote, and though things are slowly returning back to normal, agencies, studios and creatives will often prioritise voice actors who can work remotely due to their flexibility. In this instance it is essential for voice actors to have the means and feel comfortable navigating the small amount of tech associated with having a remote set up.

Producing your own work

As you cannot predict when voice work arrives at your doorstep, having the ability to record yourself, practice, try out new material, and even create and produce your own content can be massively rewarding both personally and professionally. Imagine the possibilities! You could start a new podcast, write and publish your own children's audiobooks, create guided meditations... the list is literally endless. These are all avenues which you can potentially market yourself and generate revenue.

With a few simple tips and tricks, you can turn any space into a professional-grade recording studio, and produce high-quality audio that will captivate and inspire your audience. You also have complete control over every aspect of the recording process, from choosing the microphone and software, to creating the perfect recording space. And let's not forget about the benefits of being in a comfortable and familiar environment. When you're at home, you can let your guard down and relax, which can lead to more authentic and natural performances. You can experiment with different techniques and take your time to get the perfect recording, without feeling rushed or pressured.

With a little bit of creativity, some hard work, and the right equipment, you can create amazing recordings from the comfort of your own home. Hopefully, after reading this Guide you will have a better idea of where to start.

Tips and Tricks to home recording

Here are some tips and tricks for home recording:

1. Choose the right room: Choose a room with good acoustics and minimal ambient noise. A small room with plenty of soft furnishings can help to reduce echoes and reverberation.
2. Use a high-quality microphone: The microphone is the most important piece of equipment for recording. Invest in a good quality microphone that is suitable for your voice and the type of recording you want to do. We've made our microphone recommendations on our free resource 'Equipment List'
3. Use a pop filter: A pop filter is a screen placed in front of the microphone that helps to reduce the popping sounds that can be caused by plosive sounds like "p" and "b". This can improve the quality of your recording.
4. Consider using a microphone stand: A microphone stand can help you to maintain a consistent distance from the microphone and reduce handling noise.
5. Control the environment: Close windows, doors, and curtains to minimise external noise. Turn off fans, air conditioning, and other equipment that can create noise interference.
6. Use headphones: Using headphones can help you to monitor the quality of your recording in real-time and make adjustments as necessary.
7. Use editing software: After recording, you can use editing software to clean up your audio, remove background noise, adjust levels, and more.
8. Practice: Like any skill, home recording takes practice. Experiment with different techniques and settings to find what works best for you.
9. Record in short bursts: Recording in short bursts can help you to maintain energy and consistency throughout your session.
10. Take breaks: Take regular breaks to rest your voice and ears. This can help to reduce fatigue and maintain focus throughout your recording session.

Building a Vocal Booth

Building a vocal booth can be a great way to improve the sound quality of your recordings, by reducing background noise and echoes - your two worst nightmares! Here are some steps you can follow to build a basic vocal booth and improve your environmental acoustics:

1. Choose a space: Select a small, quiet room or closet that you can dedicate to recording. The smaller the space, the shorter (i.e. smaller) the echo.
2. Soundproofing: Soundproofing is expensive! Our aim however, is to reduce sound entering the space and bouncing around it. Install acoustic foam panels on the walls to absorb sound waves and prevent echoes. You can also use thick blankets, carpets, or even egg cartons to dampen sound. You may also want to install a heavy soundproof door, or cover the existing door with foam or blankets.
3. Build a frame: You can build a simple frame out of PVC pipes or wooden boards to hold the acoustic foam panels. The frame should be just big enough for you to stand or sit comfortably inside.
4. Cover the frame: Use a staple gun to attach the foam panels or blankets to the frame. Cover all sides and the ceiling of the frame.
5. Install lighting and ventilation: You will need a light source and some ventilation inside the booth. You can install a small LED light and a battery-powered fan to keep the air circulating but make sure there is fresh air entering the space so you can breathe!
6. Test and adjust: Once you have built the booth, test the sound quality by recording your voice. You may need to adjust the positioning of the foam panels or add more layers to get the best sound.

Keep in mind that building a vocal booth can be a time-consuming and expensive project. However, the benefits of having a dedicated recording space can be worth the effort if you are serious about home recording. There are cheap and effective ways to build DIY vocal booths. Here are some ideas to experiment with:

