



Essential Equipment for Making Music at Home

If you're interested in creating music from a home studio, it may be tempting to try and learn everything and buy everything right away. The truth is, you only need a few items to get started creating music that sounds great right from your home.

1. Computer: Really, any computer will do, but eventually you'll want to invest in the best one you can afford. Music producing software can be really hard on a computer's processing resources.

2. D.A.W.: This stands for Digital Audio Workstation. It's the primary software you will use to record, edit, and mix music on your computer. They vary in price from free to fairly expensive. Some common options are Pro Tools, Studio One, Ableton, or Garage Band.

3. Audio Interface: This is the physical device that provides the connections needed to send your music into the computer while recording and out of the computer while playing it back. They do much more than this, but for starting out an all-in-one budget interface works great.

4. Microphone(s): There are many types of microphones out there including dynamic and condenser microphones, all of which are used for different things. Do some research before spending a lot of dough!

5. Headphones: Studio headphones are different than regular consumer headphones because they allow you to hear the music you create accurately. They typically go over your entire ear and vary greatly in price.

6. Studio monitors: These aren't just regular speakers; they are designed to give a flat frequency response so that you can hear a mix of music as it truly is and be able to adjust accordingly while mixing.

7. Cables: You'll only need 3 cables to start: one XLR cable to connect a microphone to your audio interface, and two more XLR cables to connect the interface to your monitors.

8. Microphone stand(s): This holds your microphone up so you can use it hands free.