

# Special Topics: Recording & Mixing Track Comparison

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*Due to contracting Covid 19 during Project Week 1, my proposed schedule for recording the first track during was pushed back considerably due to my one week isolation. This snowballed into affecting my other units and assignments, so I had to work with a very limited space of time for the first recording.*

## 1. First Recording of Golden Trash

- I recorded for voice and acoustic guitar, using a Seinheiser e935 vocal dynamic mic, a pair of C2 condenser mics in an XY formation, and an AT 2045 condenser mic
- Because I was very tired, I got quite annoyed when trying to record to a click track, so I ended up doing it without one
- The set-up was messy and time consuming when setting up the mic stands
- The space itself was messy and not pleasant to be in
- Rudimentary edits at best



## **2. Intermediate Recording (Sad Songs)**

- I recorded lead vocals & harmonies, electric guitar, and acoustic guitar with the same set up as before
- I used the drummer shortcut and midi synths to reduce the amount of time spent mixing and recording
- It took about a day to record everything and about a week to mix it all, although the mixing was still quite rudimentary (I just used my headphones)
- The set-up and pack down was still time consuming and messy, so much so that I rushed the vocal performance

## **3. Second Recording of Golden Trash**

- It took about a day and a half of recording and I used a PreSonus Quantum 2626 preamp borrowed from a friend. This meant that we could record most of the drum kit correctly. We used 2 x SM57 Shure mics, the pair of C2 condenser mics, a Sennheiser 902 dynamic bass mic and two vocal dynamic mics to mic up the toms and snare. The vocals were recorded with the AT2045 condenser, and the bass was recorded with the bass mic. We recorded the bass and the piano at the same time (midi piano). Although it was a truly massive day of recording, everyone had a good attitude and brought their all.
- I had the time to get a full band kitted up and ready to go before the performers even arrived (approx. 2:30pm, we started recording at around 3:30pm). The whole process was very fluid and easy and even recording the actual live drum kit wasn't too difficult when we got around to it.
- I believe this to be my best mixing work out of all three, as I used the studio speakers via the TV (audio stereo output into my computer / V-Aux) and gave myself a week to get it to

sound about how I wanted it to. Now that I can record in this way, I have a chance to practice my mixing skills even more

- Packing everything down at around 7:30pm was honestly a dream. The mic stands folded down and were able to go straight back into the drum riser storage and after fixing and organising as much equipment as I could, the studio was perfectly clean and ready to be used again in under 20 minutes.





I consider this project a success as the studio now feels like a comfortable and organised placed to work. Not only that, but extra pieces of projects e.g. the leftover carpet, I was able to hang up in the corners of the room to provide better sound insulation and to help with the "bass trap" problem this room has, with a standing wave frequency of about a microtonally sharp D2. This has helped greatly and is something I will probably continue to work on in the future as I develop the studio into a more professional (and potentially rentable) workspace. Here's a panorama of the before and after of the space over the course of this semester.

