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recording. live sound. mixing. engineering

Location Recording Prerequisites

Let's start with the obvious. We need to know:

- When you want to record
- Where you want to record - your home, a venue, rehearsal room etc
- What you want to record - is it a gig or other live performance, a normal "studio type" multi-track recording, a speech or voice over, etc
- The band setup in terms of instruments, style of music and so on.

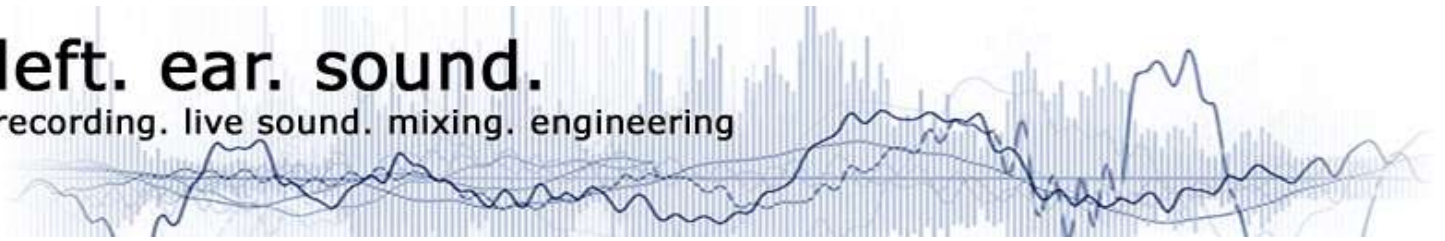
After that, we need to know some more specific information, and for you to make some arrangements as well:

For Gig or Live recordings:

- Let the venue or promoter know you intend to record your show, and speak to the venue's sound engineer to get his permission and approval
- Pass the venue/engineer's information on to us (and ours on to him!) well in advance of the event so that we can discuss the venue's equipment and get approval from the venue's sound engineer to make the recording. They hate it (rightly so) if we turn up and demand access to their gear without prior warning, and there may be some additional preparation needed to facilitate it
- Every venue and event will be different, so this liaison is critical to ensuring we are able to make an effective recording without affecting the live sound itself.
- Let us know the running order of the show, including sound checks and set-up times
- *Recording a 30 minute set does not mean that you only need to hire us for 30 minutes. We will need to arrive before you in order to get set up, hook into the venue's desk (or set up separate miking) and test our levels prior to your soundcheck. We will then be at the venue for some time after your set packing up, and we will also require time to process the recordings that have been made. This includes mixing or processing the recordings for you to mix yourselves later. Budget for at least a day's time with us to record your 30-45 minute set – if you're headlining, the chances are we're going to be there for 5-6 hours, in addition to preparing and/or mixing the audio later.*

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For location recordings, consider the following:

- Get permission to use the venue. If it's your own home, this is probably no issue. If it's at a rehearsal space or studio, make sure the owners don't object to you making a recording in their facility. Many studios offer this service themselves, so may not like it if you bring in an outside person to do it instead. We don't like getting kicked out of places! If it's a location recording, such as a conference centre, recital hall, village hall, there should be no problem but getting permission or approval is important as it may affect Health & Safety considerations for the owners.
- Practicality of the location. We need electricity, that's a given. But we also need a certain amount of space to set up, preferably with a desk and chair available, and also with sufficient space to set the band up and run mics & cables around them. Obviously we can be pretty flexible on that front, but we'll need to know if, for example, we're making a recording of a choir but can only locate the recording gear in another room, or if we need to make the mics as discreet as possible.
- Facilities at the location. As mentioned, electricity is fundamental, but making sure the venue has adequate lighting, ablutions, heating and so on is also pretty key. It's all very romantic and atmospheric to make a recording in an abandoned Nissan hut, but it's not going to be much fun for anyone to be sitting in a dark, freezing metal shell miles from anywhere for 10 hours.
- Your requirements for the end result. We can cater for pretty much any band or performance scenario, but we need to know what we're expected to produce so that we can pack the appropriate kit.
- As with recording a gig, remember that there will be mixing and editing required of the performance, so factor this into the booking time. You may need to split the recording into "tracking" and "mixing" phases, depending on the style and type of recording.