

THE **BREAKTHROUGH VOCAL** **BUYERS GUIDE**

QUALITY GEAR FOR VOCALS WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK



Audio Interface:

When inspiration hits, use whatever you have on hand to get that great idea down. But when it comes time to record that idea into your project well that's when having a good audio interface comes into play.

Choosing the right audio interface depends on what you are trying to accomplish with your music.

If you working mostly from a bedroom studio setup and will not be tracking multiple instruments all at once then you should consider starting with a simple interface that has at least two analog inputs and two separate outputs. Now, the key to optimizing your audio interface is the connection. The faster the connection the less issues you will have with latency, which can be problematic when recording vocals. Be sure to look into thunderbolt or high transfer connections.



Focusrite Scarlett 2i2

Two analog inputs and two analog outputs perfect for any portable scenario or home bedroom studio setup. Connects via USB



What I use

Focusrite Clarett8Pre

Thunderbolt connection 8ins and 8 outputs

Microphones: Dynamic

Here is the age old question... “*which mic sounds the best for...*” One thing to keep in mind is that all mics sound different and can be use for different purposes. The primary focus should be placed on how to get the best sound from your mic so the best performance is captured.

With that said, there are a couple of mics that universally work wonders for many types of occasions. I will share a couple of the “*best bang for your buck*” type mics that work great for vocals.

Sure SM 57 is a great all around mic to have on hand. Great for recording and tracking guitars, amps, and even vocals although it will take some training on how to get the vocals to sit right but it can be done. Usually priced around \$99.00



Microphones: Cont.

My little secret weapon:

I stumbled across a condenser microphone that blew me away not just because of the quality of its sounds and multi purpose use...but because of its price. My personal best bang for the buck when it comes to condenser microphones is the

SE Electronics sE2200a II C

Large Diaphragm Cardioid

Condenser Microphone

For just under \$300USD this mic sounds amazing! I have been using this instead of my mics that easily start at the \$1,000 price range.



Microphones: Cont.

Another great find is a company that makes mics model after high end vintage microphones. The company is called micparts.com and they do a fantastic job. You can buy kits to build your own mics (*but, ain't nobody got time for dat!*) or you can buy the mic already assembled.

A great buy would be their S-87 Mic which is modeled after the famous Nuemann U87. Which has been a staple in every professional studio around the world.

For just a under \$600 It is a no brainer when trying to have at least one high end model in your mic locker.

Remember that capturing a great performance will always trump spending thousands of dollars on gear. So I rather learn the mic I have on hand to its fullest potential and deliver great performances than hoping in a expensive piece of gear to solve my recording issues.



Neumann U87

VS.



Microphone-Parts S87

Treatment: Shield and Pop Filter

Most bedroom production studios are not treated for creating the best environment to record vocals. That is why a little bit of treatment can go a long way. You want to be sure to eliminate as many reflections from the bare walls of the room as possible when recording vocals.

A reflection shield can help big time in dealing with this issue.

You can also use what you might already have on hand such as curtains, staying away from the walls and move the mic stand to the center of the room possible.

Pop Filter:

Pop filters will help to stop any sibilance from being captured in your recordings. Be sure to follow the lessons in this course to how to set your filter up properly

