

# Recording Starter Kit SBT



*\$600 budget*

I'll be providing two choices for each component so there are options, but any of these setups should work fine.

# Choose your room wisely

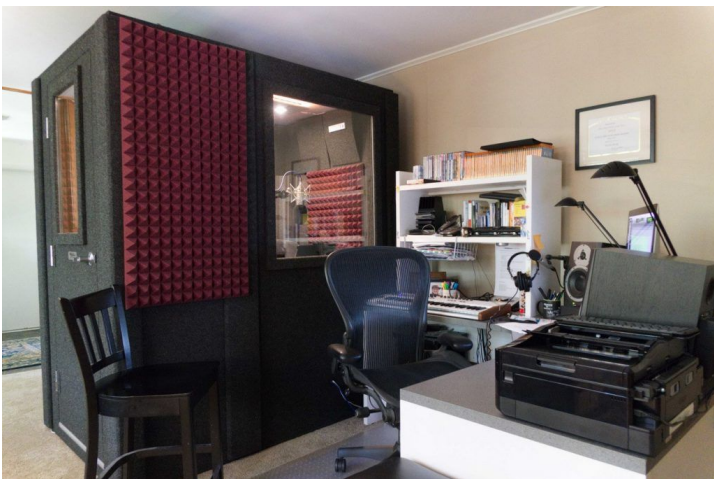


The first consideration will be the space. You will want to find the quietest room in your living space. This could be a bedroom or closet. While some setups do include these lovely acoustic isolation shields, they are only as effective as the reflection in the room you occupy.

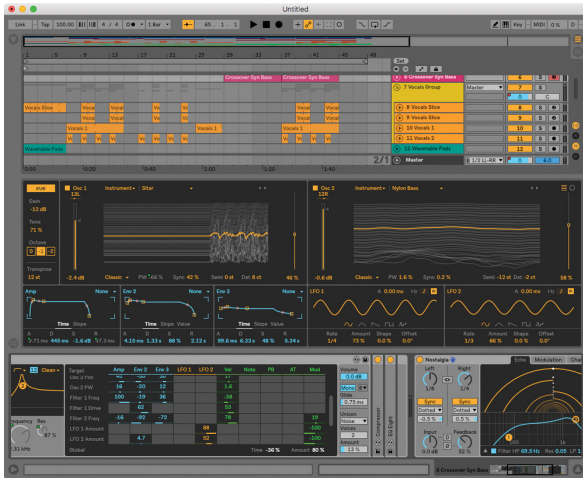
Rooms with high reverb reflection, such as those created by the tiles in a bathroom, will create unwanted echo and artifacts. A good way to test this is with a loud clap. Do you hear echoes?

While these things can be precisely measured, on a budget, we may need to cut some corners to get started.

Fabric and furniture are your friends. Anything to help reduce reflection will be your ally. A sofa or bookshelf could reflect sound waves away from mic, which is ideal. An isolation filter will be a part of your setup, so we need to help it with as much sound deadening as we can. While the isolator can help somewhat, if the room is highly reflective, the filter would be unable to combat the reverb in the room.



# Audio Interface and Computer



Abelton Live standard - \$449



Reaper - Free

While most computers nowadays can handle recording audio, you'll want to make sure your computer can run Ableton Live or Logic Pro. I recommend these cause I use them, but any DAW(digital audio workstation) will do. There are so many. Reaper is a great example of a free one.

You will need an audio interface to convert audio to digital, so your computer can process the audio. I recommend two budget choices. If they don't already, you'll need an XLR cable to



Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 169.99.



Presonus Studio 24C 159.99

# Microphones

These come in more shapes and sizes than I can count. There's no absolute answers here. Different mics may work better on certain voices or instruments. For our purposes, I'll be recommending 2 budget microphones that are extremely effective at capturing the voice.



Rode NT1-A 229.00.



Rode NTG1 249.00

These are two basic styles of mics, each will perform a differently. The NT1-A will pick up a lot of detail, but also the room. Get this one if you know you have a nice quiet space. The NTG is a bit more focused so it will get less detail, but will allow less noise into it, making it easier for situations where background noise may be an issue.

# Headphones

You'll need a good pair of headphones to hear yourself properly, and the good news is, these come fairly cheap for great quality. The two I recommend here are great for any level and are used by studio professionals to this day.



Sennheiser HD280 Pro 79.95.



Sony MDR-7506 99.99

# Isolation/Reflection Filters

These are used to give a touch more isolation and to reduce reflection around the mic. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The two I have chosen below are the most budget friendly.



Rockville Isolation \$74.95.



NeeWER Isolation \$46.49.

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# Stands

Finally, you'll need a stand for your mic. They come in several varieties, but I'd like to bring your attention to two types. The boom stand and the desk stand. You can't really go wrong with these either, so I'll suggest cheap ones. A music stand will also help carry your papers/iPad. I have not included an image as they are readily available and easy to recognize/acquire.



Magicfun boom arm and accessories \$22.99.



Amazon Basics Boom stand \$18.38.

# Conclusion

You will be buying more gear as you go along so it behooves you to jump in right away and get some practice. That way, you can quickly learn what works for you and what doesn't. Keep in mind, the gear they make today is well designed, even the budget stuff. I went a little higher on the mic because that is where you stand to get the most return on quality. A lower priced mic might be too much of a hit or miss, so it's not worth the journey. That said, the mics I chose are pro quality and will prep your ears to hear more detail. I also found some interesting bundles in the cheap that would work fine, but they wouldn't have all best in category in that bundle. May all be Rode or Rockville, which would work, but I believe would underperform. There is also a lot of overhead learning on the DAW you choose, but tutorials and guides abound. In the end, the more time you spend with the gear, the better you'll get at voice recording. The gear cannot improve your ear or delivery, only time and well meaning practice can do that.

Happy hunting and if you have any questions, you can email me at [ahmedmahmoud@me.com](mailto:ahmedmahmoud@me.com)  
I'd be happy to field any questions!