

# Your Studio Preparation Guide

Everything you need to know to be successful in the studio!

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Welcome to the Studio 222 Recording "Studio Preparation Guide!" We're looking forward to getting to work on your music with you! Before we meet, it's helpful to know what to expect or what to bring to the studio with you in order to **facilitate a successful outcome** for your music.

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## 1 Beginning of Pre-Production//Preparation

Pre-production may singlehandedly be the most important stage in the recording process, yet it gets overlooked many of times. Pre-production will set you and the studio up to get the best results possible out of performance, the equipment, and will achieve a clearer roadmap to your musical vision.

### Before You Arrive

This section may take the most self-discipline to accomplish this stage. The day at the studio really begins the day//night before.

This means that is **crucial** to set yourself up to be in the best frame of mind to **facilitate the maximum capacity of creativity and performance**. With that being said, we recommend:

- Practice, practice, practice! Practice your material routinely before your session! Practice with the instrumental, a metronome, your band, etc.

- Getting a good night's rest the night before
- Stay hydrated!
- Try not too drink//smoke excessively
- Prepare the items you're going to bring the day//night before (an inventory list may be a good idea too!)
- Figure out transportation//directions to the studio
- Pack plenty of food, water, a laptop & charger, headphones, a phone charger, and/or a portable gaming system.

Each one of these bullet points help **reduce stress, fatigue, and help maintain an overall healthier, happier mindset** when approaching your music. This **WILL** translate into your music in one way or another, so it's best to put your best foot forward and set yourself up for being the best version of you! And we'll do the same on our end, of course!

## **More Tangible Preparation**

The **previous section** focused more **holistically on mindset and logistical issues** that are **universal to each individual's success**, whereas this section will focus on more **tangible tasks to complete** before the studio. Of course, take what you will from here and apply it to your situation. We'll break it down between **general items**, and items meant for **specific instrument/artist/musician types**.

## **General Preparations**

- Aforementioned, practice as much as you possibly can!
- Have all your basic session information prepared on a USB Drive or in an email/Dropbox before the session date. This should include:
  - Title of the song(s)
  - The key of each of the song(s) [And your tunings]
  - Tempo of the song(s) - Including a MIDI tempo map if applicable
  - The lyrics of your song(s)

- \*A note if sending from another studio//engineer: If possible, have the studio//engineer send both wet/dry stems, the above info, and any session information such as bit depth and sample rate. If you need more info, you can find additional information in our Multi-Track/Stem Delivery Guide [here](#).
- Ensure that you can play each of the song(s) to a click track or metronome
  - Please bring//send any demos or pre-production recordings
  - If you have samples you want to include in the track, we recommend:
    - Making sure they are cleared for legal use
    - They are in a WAV file format (if possible), and a minimum quality of 44.1kHz, 16 bit.



## Vocal Preparations

- Please bring your lyrics with you - preferably digitally on your phone.
- Do not exert your voice in the prior days leading to your session.
- Bring some tea or throat spray.
- Steer clear of coffee, dairy products, smoking, and alcohol within a couple of hours of the session. These can impact your throat in various ways.
- Bring any voice memos that you may have laid down for melodies//vocal structures
- Rehearse vocal melodies and structures; be prepared to double vocals, do overdubs, and record harmonies.
- Have a solid routine to help warm up your vocals before tracking.
- If you have allergies or are sick, let us know. We want you to be able to have your best vocal takes possible.
- Let us know about any accommodations we may need to make!



## Drum Preparations

- Decide whether or not you plan to bring your own kit and/or cymbals or if you want to use the studio's house kit.
- If you're bringing your own kit, please replace your drum heads with fresh heads and tune them close to your liking. We can provide heads for you at an additional cost.
- Try not to bring cracked or damaged cymbals. They typically do not translate well in recordings.
- Bring any additional percussion elements like shakers, brushes, tambourines, blocks, etc.
- Bring any physical outline of the song(s) structure(s), meter, tempo map you may find helpful.
- Bring extra felts for cymbals.
- Bring extra batter heads.
- Bring your tuning key.
- Bring your drum tuner if you use one.
- Bring your drum throne.
- Expect to spend time tuning your drums before we begin recording.
- Bring many pairs of sticks.
- Try to avoid any squeaky hardware.
- Make sure everything is tightened properly.



## Guitar Preparations

- Restring your guitar the day before the session of your choosing. If you don't have goto strings, we recommend using D'Addario NYXLs.
- Make sure that your guitars are setup properly.
- Please bring a backup guitar or two to the session. Make sure these are restrung and setup as well.

- Ensure all electronics on all guitars are in working order, don't cutout, don't crackle, etc.
- Bring extra sets of strings of your choice.
- Bring a spare 9V battery for any pedals or active pickups. Although for pedals, we recommend using a dedicated 9V power supply/daisy chain.
- Bring any power adapters for your pedal boards.
- Bring your goto amp head, cab, or both. If you use an AxeFx, Kemper, Helix, etc. bring them.
- Bring any allen keys/wrenches, any wrenches, saddle wrenches, etc.
- Bring your tuner (strobe tuners recommended).
- Bring spare cables
- Bring a lot of picks!
- Don't forget any other supplemental accessories like your capo, fret wraps, etc.



## Bass Preparations

- Restring your bass the day before the session of your choosing. If you don't have goto strings, we recommend using D'Addario NYXLs.
- Make sure your bass is setup properly.
- Please bring a backup bass or two to the session. Make sure these are restrung and setup as well.
- Ensure all electronics on all basses are in working order, don't cutout, don't crackle, etc.
- Bring extra sets of strings of your choice.
- Bring any power adapters for your pedal boards.
- Bring any allen keys/wrenches, any wrenches, saddle wrenches, etc.
- Bring your tuner (strobe tuners recommended).
- Bring spare cables
- Bring a lot of picks!
- Don't forget any other supplemental accessories like your capo, felt picks, fret wraps, etc.



## Keys Preparations

- Bring all the MIDI and 1/4" TRS+TS cable and power adapters you need
- Have all of your patches, samples, etc. programmed and easily recallable.
- Bring stands
- Bring damper pedals, sustain pedals, etc.



## Woodwind/Brass Preparations

- Bring extra mouthpieces
- Make sure each instrument is in proper working condition
- Bring Grease/lubricants & valve oils
- Bring a cleaning cloth and a spit rag.
- Bring extra reeds



## Strings Preparations

- Bring resin
- Put fresh strings on the instrument the day before.
- Bring a spare set of strings
- Bring a tuner

# Final Word

Thanks for taking the time to read over this preparation guide for the studio! This checklist was developed for artists, such as yourself, to have a better idea of what to expect//bring to your studio session. Whether you're a first timer or a recording veteran, having this list handy can save on some unnecessary stress before a studio session.

Of course, this is not an exhaustive list, so if you can think of anything we didn't, let us know!

If you have any questions or need to email us any of the requested files or session material, email us at:

[brandonmcleod@studio222mi.com](mailto:brandonmcleod@studio222mi.com)

For information pertaining to sending a session, multi-tracks, or stems from another studio, engineer, or yourself, please see our guide by going here.

If you're interested in booking studio time or have a project you're ready to get started on, please go to:

[www.studio222recording.com/contact](http://www.studio222recording.com/contact)

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