

Log #4 - Studio 1 VS Studio 2

In this log, I will look at the differences I have observed between Studio 1 and Studio 2. I will discuss what applications each studio is best suited for and the benefits of each over the other.

The first difference I will discuss is the physical size. Studio 1 has a reasonable sized control room but a very large Live room. The live room also has a separate drum booth. On the other hand, Studio 2 has a very large control room, with multiple rows of chairs, but a very small live room. It does not have a separate drum booth. The size difference makes each studio better suited for specific applications. If you are recording a band all at the same time, Studio 1 is definitely capable of this. It's large space, dedicated drum booth and abundance of mobile sound absorbing panels mean that you can fit an entire band in with ease and also reduce the spill between each of the artists. I would like to say that Studio 2 is better suited for solo artists or recording individual instruments, however the metallic mic cupboard and drum kit sometimes vibrate during recording and can get picked up by the microphones making for less clean recordings. Studio 1 is also much cleaner, brighter and has a much more professional feel to it. In this sense, if you are inviting a client or artist, they would be much more impressed by Studio 1.

Next I will discuss equipment. Whilst both studios are Pro Tools enabled via Mac Pros and Lynx Auroras, there are many differences which may make you choose one of the other. As discussed above, Studio 1 is much more tuned towards recording live sound. The analog mixer along with an abundance of analog preamps, analog compressors and effects units allow for a very versatile, recording environment. Studio 1 also has two Lynx Auroras allowing for up to 32 inputs compared to Studio 2's 16. Studio 2 however is much more aimed and post-production mixing. The C24 control surface makes tweaking Pro Tools mixes a breeze and the 5.1 speaker setup means that you can mix more than just music, you can also mix for film.

Both studios have an abundance of equipment in the control room, including guitar effects units, pre amps and compressors. There are however some units that are only available in one studio. The Neve 8803 outboard dual channel EQ unit is only available in Studio 2. The Neve 8816 Summing Mixer is only available in Studio 1. Studio 2 has a Phoenix Mastering Plus unit whereas Studio 1 has a Manley Massive Passive EQ.

To conclude, both studios have their own strengths and weaknesses. In my opinion, Studio 1 is much better for recording live sound. The more spacious and kitted out live room, abundance of inputs into Pro Tools and selection of preamps all make it a great 'live recording studio'. On the other hand, Studio 2 definitely wins out when it comes to mixing pre-recorded stems. The C24 control surface makes working with Pro Tools incredibly intuitive and easy and the ability to mix in 5.1 opens the studio up to film as well.