

## SOUND ADVICE



**JMC**  
ACADEMY  
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

### HEAR THIS!

## HOME STUDIO EQUIPMENT TIPS

SETTING UP A HOME RECORDING STUDIO IS EFFECTIVE, ACHIEVABLE, AND MOSTLY AFFORDABLE THESE DAYS, WITH THE LUXURIES OF TECHNOLOGY AT OUR DISPOSAL. WE ARE SPOILT FOR CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO THE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE, BUT THE RIGHT DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE WHEN PURCHASING. WHEN SETTING UP YOUR HOME STUDIO, YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

### DESKTOP OR LAPTOP?

A computer system with lots of RAM and a large hard drive would be a good starting point. Recording audio can be quite demanding on your computer, and audio files can be quite large. Also, if mobility is something that needs consideration, then a laptop may be the solution, having all the goods that a desktop computer provides with the ability to move from location to location. PC or Mac? The age old discussion continues...

### SOUND CARD?

An audio interface is very important in the home studio environment. Consider a device that has multiple recording inputs and outputs with built in preamps, a section for headphones and also phantom power. This type of sound card will leave you with plenty of configuration options, and peace of mind knowing that you won't need to upgrade in 3 months due to outgrowing the functionality.

### MICROPHONE?

Dynamic, condenser or ribbon? Microphones come in many shapes and sizes, and can be used for a multitude of purposes such as recording vocals, guitars, drums, and even outdoor sporting events. Your first microphone should be useful for more than one scenario, such as recording vocals but also able to be used on a guitar amp. As your skills progress, your choice in microphones will also develop.

### SPEAKERS?

Equally as important as recording a sound source is the ability to play the sound source back for critical appraisal. The listening environment is a crucial factor in the home studio. The clearer the sound is coming out of the speaker, the better the judgement will be for the listener. Knowing the size of your room can be helpful when purchasing speakers, as sound pressure and frequency content will vary depending on size and shape of room, and also size of the actual speaker itself.

Now that you have some understanding in the basic requirements, it is time to begin your voyage into home recording studio production! ▶

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## GUITARIST TO WATCH

### SIMON TATTAM

**CURRENTLY PLAYING WITH:**

Daemon Pyre

**USUALLY FOUND PLAYING:**

in various Sydney and interstate venues; annoying my family in my home studio and overseas when the opportunity comes up.

**YEARS ON THE FRETBOARD:**

I was bought my first guitar at the age of 8 (27 years ago). After hearing the opening riff of Kenny Loggins' "Danger Zone" off my Dad's copy of the *Top Gun* soundtrack (seriously, don't laugh) I knew I wanted to play guitar. That riff had me hooked and is most likely the reason I chose to focus on rhythm playing. Maybe if I had heard Van Halen first, I might have been a shredder!

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PLAYING STYLE:**

I'm a rhythm guitarist, straight up. Heavily influenced by early thrash and death metal bands and also melodic and early Swedish death metal. I grew up watching guys like James Hetfield, Dave Mustaine, Dino Cazares in Demanufacture era FF, Jon Schaffer from Iced Earth, Kerry King and Jeff Hanneman, and spent a lot of time trying to emulate the way those guys could riff so fast, yet be so tight.

**FIRST AXE:**

A 3/4 size acoustic guitar - no idea what brand - and then a red Strat copy which I thought was the most badass thing on the planet once I was plugged into an amp. No idea what brand that was either.

**CURRENT AXE:**

I have quite a few, but the ones that get the most play time are my ESP Eclipses - both with EMG 81/85 sets - my Caparison Horus and Angelus with Emg 81/SA and 81/85, respectively, and I just got my hands on an ESP SV BMF that I can't seem to put down.

**RIG/PEDALS:**

I run either an MI Audio Megalith or a Mesa Dual Rectifier into a Mesa Stiletto V 4 x 12 cab. I have a T.C Electronic G System on the floor which I use for all my effects and channel switching, and I keep the brain for the g system, a furman power conditioner, my Sennheiser G3 wireless system and an ISP Decimator in a rack case.

**SECRET WEAPON:**

Stupidly heavy gauge strings and ridiculously light gauge picks. It works.

**FAVOURITE GUITARIST OF ALL TIME:**

Dave Mustaine or Slash.

**FAVOURITE CURRENT LOCAL PLAYER:**

There are many great local players at the moment, but a few that come to mind are Stu Marshall, James Norbert Ivanyi and Andrew Lilley (no bias). All different players to myself and all fantastic players with great technique and most importantly, feel!

