

Mediaportal Report

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▶ **Long hours making tracks**

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By: danielle elms

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Long hours making tracks

For sound advice consult an audio engineer, writes **Dannielle Elms**

NICK Franklin didn't realise he had started his own business until it was already up and running.

"I figured out I was doing three to four recordings a month and it would be a viable thing to do [for a living]," he says.

As an audio engineer, Franklin processes and edits music for albums. As a part of his business, he also creates and manufactures his own handmade audio equipment.

"I might think such and such is useful but no one's making it or not making it at a reasonable price. It works in my favour [that they are handmade] because people like the idea of having something limited-edition," Franklin says.

He undertook his first paid projects while studying for a Bachelor of Creative Technology at JMC Academy — but made sure that he had plenty of experience before taking the work on.

"At JMC we had access to the studios any time, so in first and second year I'd go in

every weekend, learning how to record, to practise."

Although he now has his own audio business, Franklin has found it doesn't mean you always have the liberty to pick your own hours.

"There is the potential to finish at 4am. You sometimes have extreme deadlines, maybe a band will have booked an album launch too soon that you need to be

ready for," he says.

Seeking your own client stream is a good way to get into the industry.

"It's become more accessible to set up studios at home. Because of this, the bigger studios aren't getting as much work so there's less opportunity there. It's best to find a way to do it yourself," Franklin says.

And it's not all about buttons and knobs. People skills are needed too.

"You have to be able to sit in a room with the same people for hours."

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how to be an ...

Audio engineer

Qualifications

Nick Franklin studied for a Bachelor of Creative Technology at JMC Academy and did voluntary work in studios.

Course

The University of Technology, Sydney, has a Bachelor of Sound and Music Design which gives skills in composition, entertainment and audio technology. JMC Academy has an Associate Degree of Audio Engineering and Sound Production that covers operational and technical aspects of audio production.



From the inside

Franklin (pictured) owns an audio business, mixing music for albums and manufacturing audio equipment.

“You have to work hard,” he says. “The hours can be long and the nature of the industry is that you have to work hard to make a name for yourself.”

**More information: uts.edu.au,
jmccademy.edu.au**