

MIC PLACEMENT FOR HOME RECORDING

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OR, TWO WAYS TO MIC ANYTHING

**KEY PRINCIPLE:
THERE ARE NO RULES!
EXPERIMENT!**



GUITAR (OR BASS) AMP

- Mic touching the grill cloth, centered on one of the speakers (use a flashlight to line the mic up with the speaker cone)
- Bright; intense



GUITAR (OR BASS) AMP

- Mic touching the grill cloth, off-center on one of the speakers (anywhere between the center cone and the edge of the speaker, to taste)
- darker; mellow



ACOUSTIC GUITAR

- ▶ As close as is comfortable, around the 12th fret



ACOUSTIC GUITAR

- ▶ Aimed at the body (but avoid the sound hole, which is too boomy!)



VOCALS

- “Live style:” hold the mic and sing into it (closer or further away, to taste)



VOCALS

- On a stand, at least 3 ft away (more of a room sound, maybe better for backups, answers, harmonies)



DRUM SET

- “Front of Kit:” about 6ft in front of kick; about 6ft high
- Emulates standing in the front row at the Holland Project!
- (Ask me about compression if there’s time!)



DRUM SET

- “Modified Soul:” pointing down to the triangle formed by the hi-hat, snare, and kick
- (Ask me about ribbon mics if there’s time!)



UPRIGHT PIANO

- Behind, roughly in the center



UPRIGHT PIANO

- ▶ Player position: next to the head of the player!

ANYTHING ELSE

- Put the mic down somewhere (a mic stand is helpful, but not necessary) really close to the thing and see how that sounds (vibe: intimate, close, intense)
- Back up: 3ft, 6ft, more and see how that sounds (vibe: in the background/room, mellow)



GUITAR, BASS, KEYBOARD, ETC.

- Don't forget that you don't have to mic it: you can just plug into the interface and see how that sounds
- Alternately known as "Hi-Z" or "DI" (for direct inject)

REVIEW

- There are no rules! Experiment!
- Just because you see a YouTube video, another engineer, a recording magazine, etc. do it one way, does not mean that's the only way!
- Try a few things; you'll learn over time what works for different situations.
- Take a step back and think about the song: What is it already doing? What is it trying to do? What can you do with a mic to help? In other words, be intentional, be present, don't just do something because "that's how it's always done."