

# INTRODUCTION

If you're **new to recording** and don't know what to expect or what you should know, I made this **Christ Life Productions Recording Guide** just for you! (I gotcha bruh)

Being your first time recording, this should be an **exciting** and **fun** experience, but that can sometimes be drained away by the thoughts of worry and self-doubt that come with doing anything for the first time.

Recording can seem scary if you've never been exposed to it, **but have no fear**, the **Christ Life Productions Recording Guide** is here! (Don't trip...bruh)

Everything you need to know can be explained in **3 Areas** which I will break down and they are:

- 1. Basics of Studio knowledge**
- 2. What is needed from the artist (you)**
- 3. What to expect from the engineer (the person recording you)**

Let's get started!

## 1. Basics of Studio Knowledge

- STUDIO LANGUAGE/TERMS/SLANG: (simplified)
  - I. Studio/Stu/Yo: Place where you Record/Produce Music. It's not always an expensive facility in a building; nowadays many studios are in homes/living rooms/bedrooms.
  - II. Engineer: The guy/gal Recording/Producing/Mixing/Mastering your music.
  - III. Music Producing/Production: To some people it can be defined as simple as making a beat, or as complex as being the head person over how everything from the beatmaking to the final mastering stage should go.
  - IV. Tracking: Same as Recording.
  - V. Mixing: The Production stage after Recording. NOT TO BE CONFUSED

WITH MASTERING. Takes everything that has been recorded and puts it together to make it sound it's best.

VI.Mastering: The Production stage after Mixing. NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH MIXING. Usually applies to full projects/albums, but can be used for single songs. Used to give the final mix that radio ready quality.

VII.First Take: A throwaway/scratch recording used to get the overall volumes of the mic, headphones, and music at a usable level for both the engineer and artist.

VIII.Hook/Chorus:The memorable, catchy part of the song that is repeated throughout.

IX.Verse: The part of the song before/after the hook/chorus.

X. Vocals: The overall recorded parts of your voice on to the instrumental/beat.

XI.Lead Vocal: The dominant part of the recorded vocals that will be made louder than and hence take the lead over the rest of the vocals.

XII.Double/Dub: A second take of your Lead Vocal used to reinforce the Lead Vocal. Can be recorded or copied & pasted by the engineer.

XIII.Stacks/Highlights:Recordings of just the words in the song needing emphasis. Usually the end words.

XIV.Ad-Libs: Extra phrases/words/sound here and there through out the recording. (When 21 Savage says "21,21" or Migos say "skrrt skrrt")

XV.Bounce/Export/Render: When the engineer takes the song from its recorded form and turns it into a single file you can listen to.

- **ETIQUETTE:Always be courteous of the gear.** That should go without saying, but I still believe it should be brought up. Some engineers are super laid-back, others are more delicate. Either way, they've invested a lot of money into what they are using to record you. Always be mindful of that and treat the equipment with respect.

## 2.What is needed from the artist (you)

- EXCITEMENT: No, I'm not kidding. I need for you to be EXCITED about this! This is important because it will translate to and reflect in your recording. You are one of the few who are taking their dream/hobby/pursuit seriously and you should be commended for that. **Never lose passion** for your goals and **never let anyone take that excitement from you!**
- RELAXATION: If you're like me, you over-analyze everything. While there is nothing wrong with asking the right questions, sometimes we can become mentally paralyzed by worrying about so many "what if" questions. Listen...**CHILL!** I know this is new for you, so I won't expect anything more from you. All you need to know is that you just need to be the best artist you can be (whatever that looks like to you not anyone else), and allow me to handle or answer the things you can't. In other words, **you just bring the food, (your talent) I'll cook it up for you in my audio kitchen!**
- AWARENESS OF TIME: **Please be punctual.** Not for me, for you. Allow me to be direct; if you have booked the time (which requires a deposit), it doesn't affect me if you don't even show up. You basically just sent me a donation, not payment for a service. Hate to put it that way, but that is the reality. **Being late only hurts what YOU are trying to accomplish,** and that is to record your first track(s).
- EFFICIENCY: To maximize your time in the stu, **please remember your songs by heart/memory\***. It best serves you to. How would you feel, imagine, using a whole 2 hours you booked on only recording HALF of a song/verse due to lack of preparation? That would be disappointing to you, and I wouldn't want that. Of course, even the best artists mess up their takes, sometimes many times in a row! But, **the best way to prevent not feeling accomplished in the stu is to be prepared beforehand.** \*You can of course have your songs written in paper or in your phone, but I mean you should not be learning your lyrics for the first time as you are recording.
- HONESTY: Don't allow shyness to get the best of you. Remember, this is YOUR music, these are YOUR songs. **Don't settle for anything less than your best recording. Want to record another take and scratch the last one? Just tell me.** Want to try recording in an off the wall voice? Do it! Even with non-music matters, speak up. Let me know if you would like some water or a quick break for whatever

reason.

If you go by these principles, any studio will be happy to have you!

### 3. What to expect from your engineer (person recording you)

- EXCITEMENT: Unless the excitement is looking like something that should be on a Disney kids movie, **your engineer should always have a general excitement and appreciation for you bringing your business** to him/her and to be able to be a partner in bringing your song to life. I fully believe this!
- RELAXATION: Everyone has different temperaments. Some of us are chill and goofy, others of us are sober and sharp. Either way, **your engineer should be able to reduce your recording jitters**, not make them worse. I will always try my best to make your first session a breeze.
- AWARENESS OF TIME: I will have everything ready to go, up and running, and **set up before you come in**.
- EFFECIENCY: I value your time and will make sure I don't get in the way of your recording. **I am always working on keyboard shortcuts, hacks, and tips to make sure your session is fluid**.
- HONESTY: I will rarely give creative feedback unless it is asked for. I am here to record you, this is your song(s). However, if I am asked, **I will give my honest feedback in a way that builds you up and allows for growth** along with tips.

Hopefully this breaks the ice when it comes to any question/concerns you may have in your new endeavor of recording. You'll never go wrong following the **Christ Life Productions Recording Guide**. Now go make some dope music and always continue to grow in your knowledge of Music Production!