3 PRACTICAL WAYS TO START HOME **AUDIO PRODUCTION** AT ZERO COST

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1 Clean Acoustics

It doesn't take fancy expensive acoustic treatment to set up your home studio when you're getting started. If you have a decent microphone and an audio interface, here are some practical ways you can capture almost flawless audio using regular objects lying around in your house:

- Record inside your wardrobe: Yes, you can place your mic inside your wardrobe and stick your head inside to record your voice. The clothes in your wardrobe will absorb reflections (echoes) and give you a clean sound. You can achieve similar or even better results by placing a heavy blanket to cover your head and the mic while recording!

- Heavy drapery: To reduce external noise, get some heavy curtains for your doors and windows as they act as a double layer to prevent sound leak! Also roll bedsheets to cover the gap under the doors and place some blankets over the furniture in your room.

- DIY soundproofing: Don't throw away those egg cartons the next time you go grocery shopping; they are very effective in preventing sound from escaping the room and reduce echo by absorbing them. Another alternative is to use acoustic foam panels, which are quite affordable and readily available on Amazon.

2 Use Your Smartphone

Do not underestimate the power of your smartphone. Most mid-range and above phones these days come equipped with a pretty decent microphone, typically better than the built-in mic on your laptop, and combined with the right software (apps) they can do an amazing job at capturing the audio the way you want!

- Install the free Dolby On app: Go try it out, you'll be surprised at the results! The app auto-enhances your voice after recording, reduces noise, adds dynamics and widens the overall sound to give an impressive output.

- Record in a quiet room: Turn off the fan and any other noisy appliance in your room. To cut off sounds coming from outside, make use of the tips mentioned earlier.

- Use a pop filter: It's one of those round, black screens you would have seen vocalists place between their mouth and the mic while singing in the studio. It's used to eliminate nasty popping noises when you pronounce "ph" or "f" sounds. Pop filters come pretty cheap on Amazon, but if you're not willing to invest in one yet, you can even cut out a sock, stretch it over a coat hanger and sing into it.

3 Monitoring Your Mix

It is super important to have a clear understanding of the overall output of your content because you'll never know what your audience is going to play it on. Therefore, you need to ensure your track sounds good on all devices. Every device has a unique output of its own, which is referred to as the "colour" of the sound, e.g., cell phone speakers have a tinny output, as they cut off the bass sounds. Similarly, even different speakers have slightly (or vastly) different audio output—they either enhance or attenuate certain frequencies, like a built-in equalizer. This is the reason professional music producers use a special kind of speakers or headphones called "monitor", that has a flat response and can give you a good idea about the actual output quality of your mix. But monitors are again another investment which you might not be ready for when you're just getting started. So here's the alternative:

- Listen to your content on a variety of sound devices lying around in the house: your PC speakers, a couple of headphones and earbuds, one of those portable Bluetooth boxes, the car stereo—whatever you have access to. The more devices you can listen on, the better!

- Give your ears a rest from time to time. Trust me, listening fatigue is real. So rest your ears for a few hours before listening to your track again, if it still sounds right, congratulations—your content is ready!

So, my friend, those were the 3 practical tips I had for you to help you kickstart audio content production on your own without having to commit a huge financial investment first!

Whether you're an independent singer, musician or band, in order to get your amazing stuff heard you need to be able to create high quality audio content consistently, and with so many creators out there on social media and digital platforms today, you definitely will need more than a few skills to produce top-notch content that stands out from the rest and gets you heard!

And it surely does not make financial sense to hire a studio and a producer and engineer each time to get content done for you regularly. The truth is: this is no rocket science and you could it all by yourself, by learning a few basic skills and growing from there.

So I hope you found these cool tips useful and I cannot wait to see you get started. Feel free to share your journey of growth with me at mahalstudio@outlook.com

I'd love to hear from you!