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Subject: Recording Guitar - hot tips?

Posted by [Dan B](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 15:20:04 GMT

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Hi,

Does anyone have any hot tips on recording acoustic guitar? I'm particularly thinking solo acoustic fingerstyle steel string (think Michael Hedges, Justin King, Pierre Bensusan, etc).

Obvious things are material dependent, but ... tips on any aspect, from mic positioning, recording levels, good reverbs, etc, would be great. Do people favour live/dry rooms? I'm (unfortunately) using bedrooms etc. I usually try to keep the room dry, but encourage early reflections with wood boards / tiles under the player.

A few of my own for starters:

- Tube pres can sound great
- M-S micing
- Unorthodox micing positions (look for the sweet spot)
- In good rooms, mic from a distance. Driving the pres hard makes things sound big.
- And some more obvious ones: new strings, a great guitar and player

Thanks in advance,  
Dan

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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?

Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 15:38:57 GMT

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Hi Dan...It depends on the resources you have at hand...It sounds like you have studied some of the major possibilities.. Use your best room,best mic-pre,best mic pair and most of all...play a great performance of great music..(M-S is pretty sweet)

"Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote in message news:44197414\$1@linux...

>

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> thinking solo acoustic fingerstyle steel string (think Michael Hedges, Justin

> King, Pierre Bensusan, etc).

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> Thanks in advance,  
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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [Nil](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 16:19:54 GMT  
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I've always favored a combination of an SDC aimed at the body/neck joint area, coupled with an LDC aimed at roughly the bridge/soundhole area, but backed off a couple feet or thereabouts and positioned at a lower height relative to the floor than the SDC would be. SDC on cardioid, and LDC on omni often works nice in this configuration. Not something you're going to pan hard left & right, so if you're going for true stereo it's certainly not the configuration you'd want to use.

Neil

"Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote:

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>Thanks in advance,  
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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 16:44:07 GMT  
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this is no joke but get on your hands and knees and move around in front of the guitar and listen to where it sounds the best and put your mics there.

On 17 Mar 2006 01:20:04 +1000, "Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [RZ](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 17:20:03 GMT  
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Hi Dan,

I usually record my acoustic guitars in mono, unless you have a great sounding room and can place some distance between the guitar and mics. I have found that a single small diaphragm condenser pointing down from above (approx. 45 degrees, 6-12 inches) at the sound hole (orabouts) will usually provide a good balance of string and body resonance. I usually listen through headphones while playing to find the sweet spot which can be subjective. A mono track can be easier to deal with in a complex mix. I like adding a good convolution reverb afterward to create the environment. I usually double rythm guitars and pan L&R. Hope this helps.

RZ

"Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote in message  
news:44197414\$1@linux...

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> Thanks in advance,  
> Dan

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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?

Posted by [Mark McDermott](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 18:13:49 GMT

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Hey Dan,

Sounds like you're already on the right track.

If the guitar is an electric/acoustic, I like to record the output of the onboard electronics to its own track. Sometimes, blending this with the mics can really fill out the sound without the need for a lot of EQ. And, if you don't like it you can easily toss it away.

Happy tracking!

Mark

"Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote:

>

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>Dan

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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?

Posted by [justcron](#) on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 21:39:20 GMT

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This is good to practice with and you can hook it up to PARIS:  
<http://www.gamespot.com/ps2/puzzle/guitarhero/review.html>

"Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote in message  
news:44197414\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 03:57:05 GMT  
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More tracks are mixed in mono than in stereo around here.

We make dense, intricate music, though. For traditional acoustic music with  
3 or 4 instruments, maybe stereo is better.

But Swen is always recording things in stereo, and I'm always deleting one  
of the two....

Jimmy

"RZ" <pearlmusic@sbcglobal.net> wrote in message news:44199f77\$1@linux...

> Hi Dan,

>

> I usually record my acoustic guitars in mono, unless you have a great  
> sounding room and can place some distance between the guitar and mics. I  
> have found that a single small diaphragm condensor pointing down from above  
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> like adding a good convolution reverb afterward to create the  
environment.

> I usually double rhythm guitars and pan L&R. Hope this helps.

>

> RZ

>

> "Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote in message  
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>> Thanks in advance,

>> Dan

>

>

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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [wmarkwilson](#) on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 03:58:26 GMT  
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Absolutely Rick - I do this, too. And just to add, never assume that the best acoustic poles are fluxing off the body at 90 degrees. When examining the instruments best balance locations, consider angles of as much as 30 degrees to the top.

W. Mark Wilson

"rick" <parnell68@hotmail.com> wrote in message  
news:tc5j12lcu99hip6t2aejm6v6umv41f9ato@4ax.com...  
> this is no joke but get on your hands and knees and move around in  
> front of the guitar and listen to where it sounds the best and put  
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> On 17 Mar 2006 01:20:04 +1000, "Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com>  
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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [rick](#) on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 09:40:51 GMT  
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are we twins separated at birth??? ;o)

On Thu, 16 Mar 2006 19:58:26 -0800, "W. Mark Wilson"  
<[wmarkwilson@verizon.n.o.s.p.a.m.net](mailto:wmarkwilson@verizon.n.o.s.p.a.m.net)> wrote:

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>[news:tc5j12lcu99hip6t2aejm6v6umv41f9ato@4ax.com](mailto:news:tc5j12lcu99hip6t2aejm6v6umv41f9ato@4ax.com)...  
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Subject: Re: Recording Guitar - hot tips?  
Posted by [Bill Lorentzen](#) on Sun, 19 Mar 2006 14:40:10 GMT  
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Try MS. For solo gtr it can be just right some times. I do different micing for solo ac gtr than for a track in a mix. I go for more bottom for solo, so I would definitely try LDCs (try omni if you have a nice room) (as well as SDCs).

"Dan B" <daniel\_burne@NOSPAM.yahoo.com> wrote in message news:44197414\$1@linux...

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