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Subject: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 00:39:40 GMT  
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I have \$800 burning a hole in my pocket.  
I will have two Motu 8pres which will give me 16  
mic pre channels etc...  
I also have two dbx586s that I am considering selling.  
I would want to replace the dbxs with a higher grade tube preamp for a "golden  
channel".  
However there are other things I like too.

Things I am considering are:

Universal Audio SOLO/610  
UAD dsp card project pak  
More microphones (current inventory- 2-akg414, 1 cad VX2, 1-behrngermeasurement  
mic, 2or3-sm57, 2-Rode NT5, 1 Shure beta52)

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [TC](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 01:24:28 GMT  
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For mics, you should have a SM7 or SM7b in there.

I like the 610.

my \$0.02

Cheers,

TC

Bandon wrote:

> Any opinions would be greatly appreciated.  
>  
> Is 1 channel of good tube preamp worth more than say a UAD?  
> Should I get a ribbon mic or more SM57s or 421s?  
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> "Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 01:30:45 GMT  
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Microphones are a huge part of the equation, but first things first.....how's your room? That's where I would definitely start. If your room needs help, that's the place to put your money. If your existing preamps can give you a clean, undistorted signal, the 2nd thing on my list would be microphones. Given a decent preamp to work with, a great microphone with a neutral preamp is going to provide you more in the way versatility than a great preamp and a mediocre (or inappropriate for the source) microphone..

Just my \$0.02

Deej

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote in message news:45d24c3c\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 01:52:43 GMT  
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thx  
b

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 02:10:52 GMT  
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OOOOH! We get to spend someone else's money for them! lol

OK, at first glance, you need more mics. Actually it really depends on what you want to do or are trying to accomplish that should determine what you buy next that might get you closer to that end, but I'm going on the fact that awhile ago you said you wanted to start bringing outside work into your place; and if that's still the case, you definitely need more mics if you're going to try & record a full group of any kind in any genre. I think the 3-or-4-mic drumkit thang is not practical in every application, so bearing that in mind, if I were you (and I'm not, but if I was) I would think about something along the lines of the following setup:

Kick = Beta 52 (which you currently own)  
Snare = SM57 (which you currently own)  
Hat = (I suppose you could use that Behr Omni)  
Tom1 = Need something for at least 3 Toms  
Tom2 = See above  
Tom3 = See above  
OH's = Your two 414's or the NT5's (you already have)  
Room = NT5's or the 414's (you already have)

Those Behr Omni's are crap, frankly - I had a pair for awhile & shitcanned 'em... very noisy, but you may as well use it on hat, as I can't imagine anything else they'd be good for, and hey for \$49 it's not like you've invested a lot in it. You don't "need" a separate hi-hat mic, of course, as often you can pick up enough hats in the OH's, but it's nice to have a separate track of that for imaging; so stick it on hats & make it earn its keep.

This leaves you, as of right now, short some tom mics, and with one or two SM57's (not sure which # of those you said you have), so you could single-mic a guitar or maybe two - do those DBX 586's have a DI on each channel? If so, then you can take a bass guitar direct. So go buy 3 or 4 Audix D2's, 3's or 4's, whichever you like best, for toms & an Audix i5 for another instrument mic or scratch vox unless you want to let the CAD hang in there for scratch trax, too. In either case, there's about \$800 worth of Audix Dynamics that'll pay for themselves real quick-like & which you'll immediately appreciate the sound of.

You've got some halfway-decent SDC's, and a couple of good LDC's so if you need to record stuff like acoustic instruments you could likely get by just fine with what you have in a lot of cases. Ideally, you could proly use a couple more vocal mics & mic pres of different colorations, but add just a few

dynamics & you really do have enough to at least get rolling.

Now, if that's NOT what you want to do, and you really want one "golden channel" of something, I'm gonna tellya, it DOESN'T have to be tube, as you mentioned you were considering. When you say "golden channel" I assume you're meaning: "something magic for vocals", and if you haven't heard a Chandler TG2 on any number of vocal mics, you're missing out - it ain't tube, and there are no EQ's or compressors on that box, either. However - you're not gonna get into one (nor are you going to be able to find a "golden channel" tube strip) for the \$800 that's burning a hole in your pocket, plus whatever you can get for the 586's.

Anyway if recording outside artistes is what you want to do, personally, I think you should build up your recording capabilities equipment-wise, before you worry about mix stuff like UAD cards & whatnot. Much better to be able to provide your clients a damn good mix, well-recorded, than a fancy-schmancy mix that started out with compromised tracks.

Neil

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 02:13:50 GMT  
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I've never heard either one of these preamps so I can't say. What do your

ears tell you?

"Brandon" <A@a.com> wrote in message news:45d2682a\$1@linux...

>

> So DJ would you categorize the dbx586 or the Motu preamps as

> decent? Or decenter than the other?

>

> I think my room is good.

> Nice lage wood floor, vaulted ceilings and 1 other smaller tracking room

> with carpet. My mix position is pretty good (tunes) as well.

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>>Just my \$0.02

>>

>>Deej

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>>"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote in message news:45d24c3c\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [audioguy\\_editout\\_](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 02:33:37 GMT  
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I assume that you were planning to get the two MOTU boxes as your interface for Cubase... correct? Why not get one, then get a different brand of 8ch mic pre with adat output for different flavour. That would still give you 16 mic ins, but you wouldn't have to have the same pre's on all of them.

Past that, I would get some more mic's as already suggested.

David.

Brandon wrote:

> I havent heard the Motu either.  
> I decided to get it souly for its diversity.  
> I am thinking I will sell one dbx for now and get an SM7B  
> like TC suggested.  
> Also pick up some tom mics like Neil suggested.  
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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 02:34:59 GMT  
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Guys keep it coming... please.

Neil.. Yes you are correct in your assumptions...

Let me clarify thought that I got \$300 burning a whole  
, but if I choose to sell the 586's It makes it \$800.

Maybe I will throw another 1 or 2 to make it \$1000  
depending on the benefit.

If I look at it in a need and want viewpoint

I agree with you that mics are needed. Thats why I put that last on my list.

:-)

I want a bad ass (as I can afford) preamp.

I want those fancy plugins all you guys are talking about.

I need mics.

I will look into those mic suggestions TC. thx

b

TC <tc@spammetodeathyoubastards.org> wrote:

>For mics, you should have a SM7 or SM7b in there.

>

>I like the 610.

>

>my \$0.02

>

>Cheers,

>

>TC

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 02:38:50 GMT  
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I think my room is good.  
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"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote:  
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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 02:40:26 GMT  
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>depending on the benefit.  
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> I agree with you that mics are needed. Thats why I put that last on my  
list.  
>:-)

Yeah, and I know the dynamics aren't glamorous like a badass

preamp or shiny new Neumann TLMXQ-32487, or whatever, but if you want to do bands, and you can't adequately record the basic tracks, I don't see the point of any of that other stuff.

Neil

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 03:22:22 GMT  
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Also pick up some tom mics like Neil suggested.

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please

Posted by [TC](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 05:39:41 GMT

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Neil wrote:

>  
> Now, if that's NOT what you want to do, and you really want one  
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> going to be able to find a "golden channel" tube strip) for the  
> \$800 that's burning a hole in your pocket, plus whatever you  
> can get for the 586's.

What Neil said about toobs.

I have UA, Avalon and API 512c's. The API's can be really cool with the SM7b for vocals, really punchy and upfront, it all depends on what you want.  
The SM7 also likes a pre with lots of gain, so you might not get the most out of it with a cheaper pre that's noisy.

The UA610 is great for a bit more tubey color. I don't use the Avalon nearly as much as the UA.  
The API's are my new favorites though.

I'm really happy with the API lunchbox 500 route, since it can be cheaper once you have the lunchbox purchased, but it would be looking at around \$11-1200 for one channel preamp including the lunchbox.

For mics you can't go wrong with a SM7b though, you will never sell it, and it will be your best choice on certain vocalists for certain tracks.

Cheers,

TC

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:06:18 GMT  
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wELL i AM dialing back a bit.  
You know how your not supposed to go shopping on an empty stomach.  
I think that is what I was doing.  
All I could see was new gadgets and toys....  
I am going to keep my dbxs for now.  
I will then take the \$300 and pick up 3 cheap mics like SM57s or the like.  
I will put those on Toms and use for extras like guitar cabs.

I can always sell a dbx later and pick up a SM7B later.  
I am going to have to do a clean install on my comp to get all the garbage off it and start fresh with Cubase.  
I also need to pick up another gig of memory.  
So sorry for the disappointing end to this thread, but  
I got to be practical.

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Thanks,

Brandon

"Rich " <studiodog\_99@yahoo.com> wrote in message news:45d32ff7\$1@linux...

>

> Tom Mikes Hmm- I posted a question a while back and it seems the standard  
> is still MD421 or 57's on high toms - I've been using 57's as they are

> cheep

> - take a beating and you can use them live also - but have been thinking

> of picking up two SP B1's (or b3's) for them as a alternate... it was

> sugested

> to try a C1 on floor tom - I have one so I tryed that and liked it also.

> Just have to trust the drummer not to wack them or record before the beer

> is opened :) but they are about the same price as a 57 these days - go

> figure...

> Let us know what you pick and how you like them.

>

> "Brandon" <A@A.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:24:39 GMT  
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LOL!!!!.....

"Neil" <IUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:45d3365a\$1@linux...  
>  
> "Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:  
>>wELL i AM dialing back a bit.  
>  
> NOOOOOOOO! Spend all you have, and THEN SOME... it's the ONLY  
> WAY!!! :D  
>  
>>I will then take the \$300 and pick up 3 cheap mics like SM57s or the like.  
>>I will put those on Toms and use for extras like guitar cabs.  
>  
> OK, but if you must limit yourself to that price point, I am  
> going to insist that you buy at least a couple Audix i5's  
> instead... yes, I'm insisting - I won't let you do otherwise :)  
> These things blow away 57's for guitar & snare, and plus you  
> already have some 57's... GET SOME DIFFERENT VOICINGS GOING!  
>  
> Seriously - think about getting some different colors happening -  
> what David said about going with only one MOTU Preamp set & one



> of another brand/tonality makes sense (I thought you already HAD  
> the two MOTU boxes). Otherwise, you'd really be better off  
> getting a halfway-decent small-format console (more  
> routing/monitoring capabilities, plus all same-sounding preamps).  
>  
> Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:34:08 GMT  
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---

Coincidentally I was going to look at those. Audix i5's.  
I went on sweetwater and read the reviews for the SM57  
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and the Audix i5 was mentioned.  
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I may pick up:  
1 - Audix i5  
1 - Audix D4

--  
Thanks,  
  
Brandon

"Neil" <IUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:45d3365a\$1@linux...  
>  
> "Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:  
>>wELL i AM dialing back a bit.  
>  
> NOOOOOOOO! Spend all you have, and THEN SOME... it's the ONLY  
> WAY!!! :D  
>  
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>  
> Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:39:03 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I like the idea of the 8 pres cause they have phantom power on all 8 channels.  
Not like the other... Uhh ....Presonus I think.... I forget..... that has phantom power on only 4 channels.  
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It is supposedly supposed to have a 1.6ms latency from analog in to analog out. certainly more during playback, but we'll see how it works.  
I can daisy chain the two together and I would rather keep it simple at first (same hardware) for compatibility purposes. I can always switch things around later.

--  
Thanks,

Brandon

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote in message news:45d33a57\$1@linux...  
> Coincidentally I was going to look at those. Audix i5's.  
> I went on sweetwater and read the reviews for the SM57  
> to get an idea of what other people were comparing them too  
> and the Audix i5 was mentioned.  
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>  
>  
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>

>  
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>>  
>> Neil  
>  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [Rich\[3\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:51:19 GMT  
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---

Tom Mikes Hmm- I posted a question a while back and it seems the standard is still MD421 or 57's on high toms - I've been using 57's as they are cheep - take a beating and you can use them live also - but have been thinking of picking up two SP B1's (or b3's) for them as a alternate... it was sugested to try a C1 on floor tom - I have one so I tryed that and liked it also. Just have to trust the drummer not to wack them or record before the beer is opened :) but they are about the same price as a 57 these days - go figure... Let us know what you pick and how you like them.

"Brandon" <A@A.com> wrote:  
>  
>I havent heard the Motu either.

>I decided to get it souly for its diversity.  
>I am thinking I will sell one dbx for now and get an SM7B  
>like TC suggested.  
>Also pick up some tom mics like Neil suggested.  
>  
>B  
>  
>  
>"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote:  
>>I've never heard either one of these preamps so I can't say. What do your  
>  
>>ears tell you?  
>>  
>>  
>>"Brandon" <A@a.com> wrote in message news:45d2682a\$1@linux...  
>>>  
>>> So DJ would you catagorize the dbx586 or the Motu preamps as  
>>> decent? Or decenter than the other?  
>>>  
>>> I think my room is good.  
>>> Nice lage wood floor, vaulted ceilings and 1 other smaller tracking room  
>>> with carpet. My mix position is pretty good (tunes) as well.  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> "DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote:  
>>>>first.....how's your room? That's where I would definitely start. If  
your  
>>>  
>>>>room needs help, that's the place to put your money. If your existing  
>>>>preamps can give you a clean, undistorted signal, the 2nd thing on my  
>list  
>>>  
>>>>would be microphones. Given a decent preamp to work with, a great  
>>>>microphone  
>>>  
>>>>with a neutral preamp is going to provide you more in the way versatility  
>>>  
>>>>than a great preamp and a mediocre (or inappropriate for the source)  
>>>>microphone..  
>>>>  
>>>>Just my \$0.02

>>>>  
>>>>Deej  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote in message news:45d24c3c\$1@linux...  
>>>>  
>>>>> I have \$800 burning a hole in my pocket.  
>>>>> I will have two Motu 8pres which will give me 16  
>>>>> mic pre channels etc...  
>>>>> I also have two dbx586s that I am considering selling.  
>>>>> I would want to replace the dbxs with a higher grade tube preamp for  
>a  
>>>  
>>>>> "golden  
>>>>> channel".  
>>>>> However there are other things I like too.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Things I am considering are:  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Universal Audio SOLO/610  
>>>>> UAD dsp card project pak  
>>>>> More microphones (current inventory- 2-akg414, 1 cad VX2,  
>>>>> 1-behrngermeasurement  
>>>>> mic, 2or3-sm57, 2-Rode NT5, 1 Shure beta52)  
>>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>  
>>  
>>  
>

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please

Posted by [Nil](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 17:18:34 GMT

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---

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:

>wELL i AM dialing back a bit.

NOOOOOOOO! Spend all you have, and THEN SOME... it's the ONLY  
WAY!!! :D

>I will then take the \$300 and pick up 3 cheap mics like SM57s or the like.

>I will put those on Toms and use for extras like guitar cabs.

OK, but if you must limit yourself to that price point, I am  
going to insist that you buy at least a couple Audix i5's

instead... yes, I'm insisting - I won't let you do otherwise :)  
These things blow away 57's for guitar & snare, and plus you  
already have some 57's... GET SOME DIFFERENT VOICINGS GOING!

Seriously - think about getting some different colors happening -  
what David said about going with only one MOTU Preamp set & one  
of another brand/tonality makes sense (I thought you already HAD  
the two MOTU boxes). Otherwise, you'd really be better off  
getting a halfway-decent small-format console (more  
routing/monitoring capabilities, plus all same-sounding preamps).

Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [brandon\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 18:16:13 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Ok....Morgan and I got on the subject of the Presonus also..  
I may do as you guys suggested.  
Get 1 presonus and 1 8pre. I will connect the presonus to the ADAT  
of the 8 pre.  
Sound better?

--

Thanks,

Brandon

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote in message news:45d33b7e@linux...  
>I like the idea of the 8 pres cause they have phantom power on all 8  
>channels.  
> Not like the other... Uhh ....Presonus I think.... I forget..... that has  
> phantom power on only 4 channels.  
> The Motu 8 pre will be my comp sound card as well via firewire.  
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> out. certainly more  
> during playback, but we'll see how it works.  
> I can daisy chain the two together and I would rather keep it simple at  
> first (same hardware)  
> for compatibility purposes. I can always switch things around later.  
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>

> --  
> Thanks,  
>  
> Brandon  
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>  
>  
> "Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote in message news:45d33a57\$1@linux...  
>> Coincidentally I was going to look at those. Audix i5's.  
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>>>  
>>> Neil  
>>  
>>  
>  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 18:21:31 GMT  
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---

Now you're catching on... ;-)

David.

Brandon wrote:

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> I may do as you guys suggested.  
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> Sound better?  
>  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [pauln\[2\]](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 19:29:06 GMT  
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---

How about a small 8 channel mixer as mentioned before?  
Soundcraft makes some pretty decent smooth sounding pre's in your price range.

"Brandon" <a@a.com> wrote:

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>>>> Neil  
>>>  
>>>  
>>  
>>  
>  
>

---

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Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please

Posted by [TC](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 23:33:01 GMT

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---

steve the artguy wrote:

> nowhere do I see mention of the most unnecessary item all studios need desperately  
> -- a mural!  
>

What Steve said.

And skip the mics for now and get yourself a matched pair of lava lamps instead..

Cheers,

---

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 23:49:08 GMT  
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---

nowhere do I see mention of the most unnecessary item all studios need desparately  
-- a mural!

-steve

sorry. I couldn't help myself....

"PaulN" <pn@nospam.com> wrote:

>

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>>--

>>Thanks,

>>

>>Brandon

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

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[illegible]

Subject: Re: Ok too many decisions need help please  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Fri, 16 Feb 2007 06:20:54 GMT  
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---

and, apparently, an internet connection!

"chuck duffy" <c@c.com> wrote:

>

>I tried, but I painted myself into a corner. Good thing there's a computer  
>here!

>

>Chuck

>"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:

>>

>>nowhere do I see mention of the most unnecessary item all studios need  
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>>

>>-steve

>>

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>>

>>

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