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## my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by beachb - 2008/05/10 14:36

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I am a live sound guy.  
Just got Pro tools LE. I want to play around with recording at home.  
Wife says I can Have a little money for toys to go with it.  
I am not sure what is the best bang for buck.  
So I am doing a little survay on what everyones must have list is.  
make it a good list so I can print it off to show her. That way I can use it as leverage for more funds ;}

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by DSG LABEL - 2008/05/10 17:05

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What do you want to do with Protools? How do you plan on recording? That would help people give you ideas on what to buy.

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by beachb - 2008/05/10 17:21

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I have a singer who wrote enough songs for a good demo  
I have all the hardware I need  
we will be recording vox, acu gtr, and bass  
so I need drums and and keys.  
I was thinking of Reason 4 and Strike

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by DSG LABEL - 2008/05/10 17:35

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So you are looking for suggestions for software instruments? Strike is ok, but I would recommend you check out BFD2 before you make a purchase. Reason is defiantly a good choice for sounds. However there is a multitude of other options. What type of sounds are you looking for? And I would also recommend that you try the demo versions of ANY software you buy first.

What kind of mic and mic pre are you going to be using?

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by beachb - 2008/05/10 17:47

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U87 for vox  
DI on gtr and bass  
He has a real strong southern rock sound, but most of his songs slow.  
Need a good piano sound, and strings  
I have used BFD, I like the different amb. and talk back mic sounds

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by DSG LABEL - 2008/05/10 18:08

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For piano sound I would start with - Ivory  
Also look at Structure with Goliath and Symphonic Orchestra. It will cost you. But the sounds are nice in my opinion.

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You have a lot of other options check out the demos of- Kontakt, SampleTank and Komplete.

Again I stress check out the demos!! And a mic pre is a very essential part of recording. If you really have a U87 a \$3,000 dollar mic. You better have a pre amp that is equal to that mic in order to get pristine results!(not to mention the room and recording technique)....

Also don't be afraid to use a dynamic mic like a Shure 58 if you have a untreated room and are a novice when it comes to recording... Hope this helps ya a bit!

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by beachb - 2008/05/10 18:18

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I am getting the mic from a friend, He owes me.  
I will ck to see what preamp he has.  
Like I said hardware is not a problem. I have all I need. Its the software I am not sure about.

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by TommyJ1112 - 2008/05/12 16:44

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It's difficult to make these kind of recommendations without a clearer understanding of what you have, what you want to accomplish, what level of quality are you shooting for, and what kind of ballpark budget we are talking about. (Though DSG LABEL is giving you some pretty decent advice overall)

Especially confusing are seemingly contradictory statements like "hardware is not a problem. I have all I need" but then not knowing what kind of pre-amp you might be borrowing from your friend.

I mean, if hardware is not a problem, then why not throw up some mics and record some real drums? Why record the bass and guitars all direct? If you truly had ALL the hardware you could ever need, then you would have very little need for any software.

On the whole, acoustic guitars sound awful when recorded direct alone (sometimes a DI sound can be layered in with mic sounds effectively, it all depends on the sound you are going for). Why not put up a few mics for the acoustic?

Regarding the bass, is the sound of a DI bass what you are really looking for? For a strong southern rock sound, you'll probably want to layer in the sound from a bass amp as well, or use a bass amp emulator plugin like Ampeg SVG.

How's the room you plan to record in? Have you treated the acoustics in there properly? Using a high end mic like that U87 can be great, BUT if there are major acoustic flaws in your room, that mic will pick those up as well (which could cause you more headaches, which is why DSG LABEL mentioned maybe using a dynamic mic instead).

Sooo... are you still looking for just software instruments? Do you need processors for EQ, compression, reverbs, delays, etc... ? Pitch correction (like Auto-Tune or Melodyne)?

Regarding some of the virtual instruments mentioned (this part is purely my opinions)...

I agree with Ivory for piano (my jaw literally hit the floor the first time I heard it).

I like some of the sounds in BFD2 better than Strike, but I like actually playing and programing the patterns and fills much more in Strike.

For strings, all lot of the EastWest stuff sounds incredible, but expensive. Another option is the Miroslav Philharmonik (which is included in the IK Multimedia Total Workstation Bundle or sold alone).

That was probably more answer than you were looking for, and I hope it doesn't seem like I'm jumping down your throat about any of this stuff. It's just that from the tone and lack of substantial details in your posts, it is hard to tell exactly how much experience you have, what your needs really are, and how best to help you, you know?

I mean, we could recommend \$2000 worth of virtual instruments, but you might be better served in the long run with

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\$200 of OC 703 fiberglass for acoustic treatment. Without more info, it's hard for us to know.

Ok, I'm done rambling for the moment

Best of luck

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by beachb - 2008/05/12 19:22

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yes DSG Label gave me great advice. I have a demo version of BFD2 and so far I love it.

I do have a 451 and a beta 57 we are going to try on the acu.

He wants to try different arrangements, and it's real easy and fast to try different beats and sounds with BFD or Strike.

We are doing a demo of his original songs for him to showcase. It's not an album for sale. He will go to a real studio for that.

We could spend the money and go into a pro studio and record, but I decided to invest a little money in a small virtual studio.

Now we have the ability to work on the songs when we want, make any changes we want, try different stuff. Hopefully it will help save time in a pro studio by knowing what he wants before he goes in.

It also lets me experiment with recording, have some fun with it. It would be refreshing and fun to try something different than live sound.

thanks for the great advice guys.

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## Re:my wife holds the purse strings

Posted by DSG LABEL - 2008/05/12 19:47

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+1 for TommyJ1112

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