

Welcome to the J-Bird's Nest Recording Studio: How to Get Started

Step 1: Fill out the equipment list

- There will be a sheet either on the desk or the black cart. You will need to check that all of the listed equipment is in the room and make a note if anything is broken or missing.
- Please ensure that the microphones are actually in their bags.
- If anything breaks during your session, please make a note of it before you leave.

Step 2: Turning on the computer and signing in

- Under the screen on the back bottom left is the power button. The computer is normally left in sleep mode but if it is powered down this is where you can power it back up from.
- Sign into the account "Studio" using the password you were given.

Step 3: Turning on the interface

- The Interface: The red box on the right of the computer is the interface. This is what connects to the computer and allows you to plug in and record instruments and microphones.
- The power switch is on the back right of the box. The lights on the front should come on once you flip the switch.

Step 4: Turning on the monitors (speakers)

- The two studio monitors and subwoofer are all plugged into the black power bar on the left side of the desk. Switch the grey tab to "on" and the lights on the fronts of the monitors should turn on.
- **The monitors should always be the last piece of equipment to turn on and the first to turn off.** If the computer or interface are turned off/on while the monitors are on there will be a loud pop that can damage the monitors.

Step 5: Opening a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)

- Along the bottom bar on the computer are a few apps. Both Logic Pro and Reaper are available to use as your DAW, although Logic Pro has a lot more options for virtual instruments and plugins if you don't have your own.
- For information on how to record using these DAWs we suggest watching some YouTube tutorials before coming to the studio.

Step 6: Setting up microphones and instruments

- All microphones, cables, and headphones are stored in the locked black metal cart.
- When adjusting mic stands, please ensure you are loosening the sections before moving them.
- **When recording with microphones the monitors MUST BE MUTED,** either with the mute button on the interface or by switching the power bar off. This will ensure that feedback does not occur which can be damaging to your ears as well as the equipment. You can use headphones for yourself and there is a second headphone port if you are recording an artist. There is also a headphone extension cable if you are recording far away from the computer.
- Microphone and instrument cables can be plugged either into the front or back of the interface.
- While playing an instrument or singing into a mic, you can adjust the gain knobs above the input to ensure you are getting a good signal. If the light around the knob is flashing green that is good, if it starts flashing red the gain knob should be turned down.

Step 7: Saving your projects

- In Logic Pro, at the top left click "File -> Save As". In the save window, ensure that you are saving to "StudioDrive" just below where you name your file.
- Click "New Folder" on the bottom left and name the folder with your name or name of your project. This is where you will save new projects and open old ones in the future.
- The Arts Foundation is not responsible for projects that are not saved properly in the StudioDrive location. We recommend you bring your own flash drive to save a backup of your project onto.

Step 8: Closing out of the studio

- Save your project and copy the saved project to your flash drive.
- Power off the monitors with the power bar switch, set the computer to "Sleep", and then turn off the interface with the switch at the back.
- Wrap up any cables you used and put them back in the cart, as well as return microphones to their bags in the cart and place the mic stands back in a neat manner.
- If any equipment has broken or is starting to break please make a note of it on the equipment sheet.

Need Help? Contact the St. Paul & District Arts Foundation at info@artfoundation.ca.

The J-Bird's Nest Recording Studio — A partnership between the Noel Family and the St. Paul & District Arts Foundation.

The St. Paul & District Arts Foundation acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional lands of First Nations and Métis peoples. We honour and respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all Indigenous Peoples who call this land home.