



DANIEL BLAKE PRODUCTION

Workflow

Recording Process*

- Find song tempo in beats per minute.
- Record scratch vocal and instrument track.
- Once the scratch track is complete, the recordings are typically layered onto it in the following order:
 - drums
 - bass
 - guitar
 - keyboards
 - other instruments
 - auxiliary percussion
 - lead vocals
 - background vocals

*This is a generic workflow, but it reveals my preference for structuring a song. With a little substitution you can imagine how this same workflow would apply to all styles of music. For example, an electronic dance song wouldn't necessarily have a drummer, but I would still recommend programming the beat before the bass synth.

*I also record some bands live in the studio. Above is my track-by-track approach, but live recording is recording a few or all of the instruments together simultaneously. The only tracks that usually need to be re-cut after the live recordings are the vocals.

Final Thoughts

- Be as prepared as you can be before entering a studio to record. Fresh guitar strings, newer drum heads (or at least ones in decent shape), a good night's sleep and good breakfast are heartily recommended. :)
- Know your music, your parts and be in agreement with your group about the vision and direction of the project. Unity is a superpower in the studio!
- And, most of all, enjoy the experience! Things can get tense in the creative environments, but remember there is no 'right answer' in the studio. No sure formula can guarantee a hit song. Be patient with one another and keep your ears and mind open. (Remind me of this point if I forget in the studio, too. Us humans are tricky and emotional creatures!)
- Lastly, my personal feelings on the matter: I'd guess that few people who are making history are aware of it while it's happening, so at least make the best experience of recording that you can and if you end up with a hit then you had fun while you did it!