

# prosound

## sound post

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## Maddocks Launches Cups 'N Strings

by Steve Harvey

SANTA MONICA, CA—A veteran of the recording industry on both coasts, Bruce Maddocks has launched his own full service venture, Cups 'N Strings. Featuring surround mixing, mastering, post production and high-speed delivery via T1 and ISDN lines, the new studio is located in the Media Ventures entertainment complex, home of Academy Award-winning composer, Hans Zimmer.

Media Ventures houses a number of composers and music producers, which immediately attracted Mad-

docks to the facility. "I like being in an atmosphere in which there's always a creative buzz," he states. "There's a great exchange of ideas, because everybody works on all these different platforms and different formats, and everybody has a great set of job skills."

Maddocks reports that the spacious 300-square-foot control room and adjoining overdub space were essentially ready for occupancy. "I acquired the space at the tail-end of January this year and have been slowly

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Bruce Maddocks is pictured in the control room of his new facility, Cups 'N Strings, which features surround mixing, mastering, post production and high-speed delivery via T1 and ISDN lines.

### Cups

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building into it, doing smaller, lower-profile sessions to make sure all the bugs were out of it."

When it came to equipment choices, Maddocks, who started in the industry 30 years ago, looked at what his colleagues were using. "I looked to see which console system had the most flexibility, and which one the mastering people were using, because I want to do surround mixing, mastering and encoding." The Sony DMX-R100 automated digital console got the nod. "It just gives you unbelievable automated control over positioning any of the soundfields."

Maddocks reveals that the monitor choice was an easier decision. "I build my own. I do have sets of NS-10s and Genelec 1031s available, but if it's my session I work on what I'm most familiar with." Hafler

Trans•NOVA power amplification is used throughout: "I really like the way the ampli-

kind equipment," comments Maddocks. The company's Multi Q equalizer, Quadcomp

"I've tried to make it as streamlined as I could, to make it very accessible to other engineers and as straightforward technically as possible."

*Bruce Maddocks, Cups 'N Strings*

fier works with my loudspeakers."

The equipment racks house a selection of gear "that is immediately recognizable and typically very user-friendly," says Maddocks. But in addition to more familiar items from dbx, Aphex, Orban and Universal Audio, there are some rarities, including an Altec tube mic pre used by John Lennon, acquired at auction for \$50.

Australian manufacturer ARX Systems is also heavily featured. "They specialize in building very roadworthy, high-end, almost one-of-a-

multichannel compressor, Sixgate 6-channel noise gate, crossovers, rackmounting mixers and graphic equalizers are all represented.

"I've tried to make it as streamlined as I could," says Maddocks of the studio, "to make it very accessible to other engineers and as straightforward technically as possible. I also wanted to create a comfortable space that I could have people come into and have them feel they're almost at home."

**Cups 'N Strings**

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