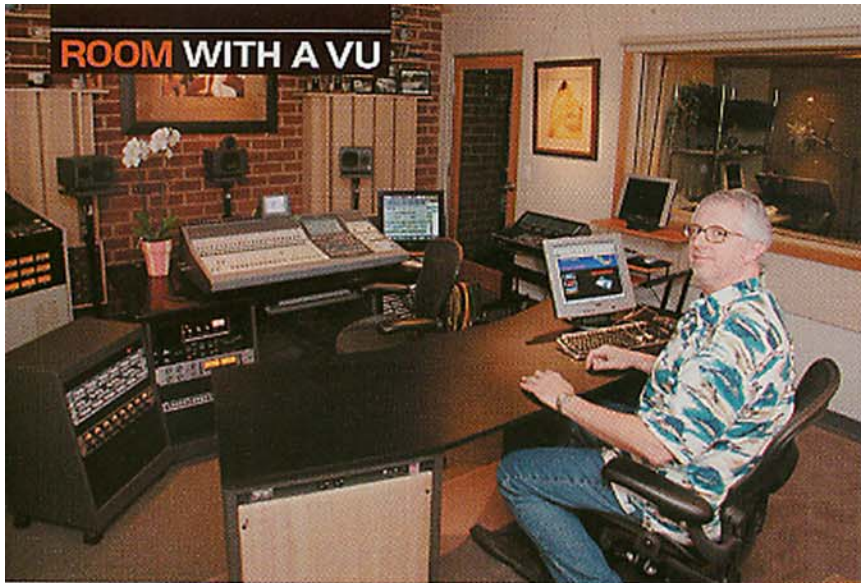


ROOM WITH A VU



Story and Photos
by
David Goggin



Cups 'N Strings

Digital + vintage
analog = full
service studio

STUDIO NAME: Cups 'N Strings
LOCATION: Santa Monica, CA
KEY CREW: Bruce Maddocks, owner/chief engineer

CONSOLE: Sony DMX-R100
MONITORS: Custom TLC-3, Genelec 1031A, Yamaha NS-10, Hafler Sub Woofer, ROR cubes
AMPLIFIERS: Hafler P3000 Trans Nova
RECORDERS: Ampex ATR 124 24-track, Ampex ATR 104 two-track, Panasonic 3800 DAT
OUTBOARD: ARX Quadcomp, 6 gate noise gate, Multi Q; Tubetech LCA 2B Dual Compressor, Summit Tube Leveling Amp, dbx 160 [3], UREI 1176 [2], TL Audio Stereo Tube Mic Pre and EQ, Magnatech 29-BR stereo EQ, Magician eight-channel tube interface, Aphex Aural Exciter, Orban 516, Apogee PSX 100 SE

EFFECTS: TC Electronic System 6000, Lexicon PCM 81, Eventide Instant Flanger

MICROPHONES: Neumann M149, Studio Projects C1

MICROPHONE PREAMPLIFIERS: Neve 1073, TL Audio EQ1, Altec 1537 tube pre, ARX four-channel mic pre

DAW: Digidesign Protools HD

COMPUTERS: Apple Mac G4/800, Apple Mac G3/400, Apple Mac Cube Server, HP XT948 Pentium 4/2 GHz, 772C Pentium 4/2.26 GHz

SOFTWARE: Waves Master Native, Audio Cleaning Lab, Toast with Jam, Fetch, Steinberg Nuendo, Wave Lab 4; Sonic Foundry Sound Forge 6.0, BIAS Peak 3.0

POWER CONDITIONING/BACKUP: APS UPS Isotrans

ACOUSTIC TREATMENT: Custom Hemholtz absorbers, bass traps, and diffusers

STUDIO NOTES: Cups 'N Strings offers surround mixing, mastering, post-production, and high

speed delivery via T1 lines and ISDN. Calling on his 30-year experience as chief engineer at top studios nationwide, Maddocks' new studio is located in the Media Ventures entertainment complex, creative center of Academy Award-winning composer Hans Zimmer. Combining digital technology with vintage analog gear, the studio is available with Maddocks at the board or as technical guarantor of projects booked.

The control suite houses a Sony DMX-R100 console; the console has been configured for eight channels of simultaneous digital and analog output. Mixes can be made to two-inch eight-track analog multitrack or any digital multitrack, MO drive, or hard drive recording system. Utilizing the TC Electronic System 6000 "Unwrap" software, surround mixes can be created from two-track masters. Mixes can be encoded into Dolby digital (AC-3), DTS, or DVD-A bitstreams.

"I wanted to take all the services that are in demand right now and make it all accessible in one space," says Maddocks, who has worked at Capitol, Record Plant, Sony, and the Hit Factory. "The goal was to create a one-stop workshop with mixing, transfers, stereo work, stereomastering, surround mixing, extraction, surround mastering, and surround encoding. With a background in studio design and construction, I did all the acoustical measurements and manufacture of the diffusers and absorbers myself."

An EDNet affiliate, the studio provides real-time audio access to more than 400 sites in North America and an additional 200 internationally. Through a secure FTP site, users can upload or download files of any type.

EQUIPMENT NOTES: Cups 'N Strings offers conversion between all formats, as well as transfer to analog tape for archiving. The facility also offers digital storage archives, with analog masters played back on a refurbished ATR-104, with A/D conversion through Apogee PSX-100 converters. "I've specifically looked toward surround and catalog re-release," Maddocks explains. "I'm doing those transfers, and I also have a tape-baking oven as well, so if people have tapes that are suffering from sticky shed, we can do all that prep as well." ■

→ WEblink

Visit Cup 'N Strings at: www.cupsnstrings.com

