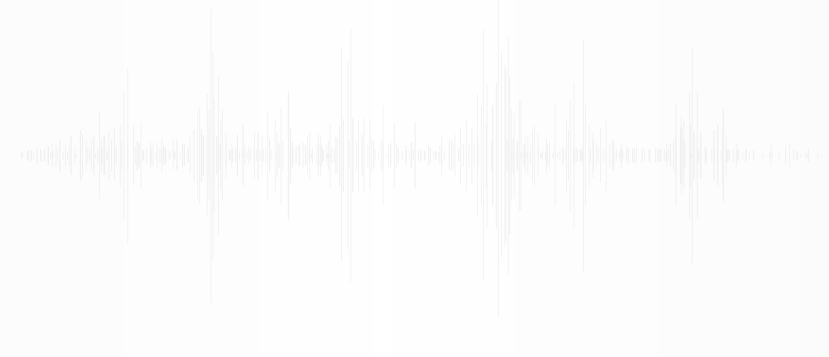




CAREERS IN MUSIC

MAKING THE ALBUM



STEP 1

RECORDING

LAYING DOWN TRACKS

Rehearsal is over. This is the real thing. Once the band enters the studio, the recording process starts with laying down individual tracks of each vocal part and instrument. These separate tracks are recorded multiple times, so that the recording engineer can artfully select the best version to be combined with the other musical parts.



There are more than 1,700 recording studios in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau.

THE CAREERS

THE BUSINESS

- Label A&R Representative
- Band/Artist Manager
- Recording Studio Manager
- Assistant Studio Manager



The first Grammy for Best Engineered Album, Non Classical was awarded in 1959.

THE ARTISTS

- Record Producer
- Beat Producer
- Songwriter



Rick Rubin won 5 Grammy awards in 2007, the most of any producer in one night.

THE TECHS

- Chief Recording Engineer
- Recording Engineer
- Assistant Recording Engineer
- Recording Studio Technician
- Studio Setup Worker



Al Schmitt has won 18 Grammy Awards, more than any other engineer or mixer.

STEP 2

EDITING

CUTTING THE TRACKS

With separate tracks recorded for each instrument and vocal part on a tune, the engineer attempts to cut together an album using the best takes of each part for every song. Sometimes called compositing, the engineer may cut together several different takes of one instrument or voice for a single song. The engineer also does some final clean-up work.



104.8 million albums were download in 2011.

THE CAREERS

THE ARTISTS

- Record Producer
- Beat Producer



Glenn Davis Doctor G holds the world record for the longest single album.

THE TECHS

- Recording Engineer
- Assistant Recording Engineer

STEP 3

MIXING

TWEAKING THE SOUND

An engineer that specializes in mixing albums is tasked with making adjustments to volume, balance, and other acoustic qualities after the editing process is complete. This person may also add sound effects like reverb or distortion to add to the overall design of a song. It is during the mixdown that the album finally starts to sound complete.



In 2012, Adele became the first double platinum artist on iTunes, selling more than 2 million downloads.



An experienced mix engineer requires an average of 4-6 hours to mix one song.

THE CAREERS

THE TECHS

- Mix Engineer
- Assistant Mix Engineer

STEP 4

MASTERING

THE FINAL PRODUCT

The mastering process involves refining and transferring the final mix of audio tracks to a data storage device (the master) that will serve as the source for all future duplication; this may be a CD, vinyl record, or digital file. The mastering engineer also works to balance and compress the audio tracks to create the greatest playback quality.



The first "vinyl" record-actually made of rubber-was invented by Emile Berliner in 1888.



The first CD was pressed in Germany in 1981.

THE CAREERS

THE TECHS

- Mastering Engineer
- Assistant Mastering Engineer



Adam Ayan is the first mastering engineer to win a Grammy for Best Engineered Album.