

3 BACKTHIRDAUDIO

Sound Foundations

Sound Foundations is something new – crash courses in audio for the uninitiated. We assume no prior knowledge. We put you in the studio for a month, tell you what’s really going on and give you lots of cool knobs to turn and nice microphones to play with. You leave ready to mix a band. It’s that simple.

If your speakers could speak, they’d be begging you to get in here.

Classes are small – 8 students or fewer– and appropriate for anyone over the age of 14 who plays in a band, mixes a band, does any kind of recording or just digs popular music and wants to understand how it gets made. They’re also great for folks who have some mixing experience but want to fill in a few holes in their knowledge of “the basics.”

Sound Foundations II: Studio Sound

Want to record, but not sure where to start? Wondering why your favorite rock band’s albums sound so much better than anything you’ve managed to track in your basement? This is the place to find your answer.

Sound Foundations II is a crash course in studio recording. Students will leave knowing how to design, set up and run a recording studio of almost any shape and size. Great sound is part art and part science; it takes time and experience to do it like a pro. We’ll give you the tools to make your experience count.

Topics to be covered include studio signal path, studio design and construction, microphone types and uses, tracking, mixing and mastering. We’ll also conduct a drum-recording clinic, and we’ll get familiar with ProTools HD as well as several other recording formats.

Many of the principles of this course build on those covered in **Sound Foundations I: Stage Sound**. The Stage Sound course is recommended (but not required) as a prerequisite to the Studio Sound course.

Classes meet from 6pm to 9pm on April 7, 14, 21 and 28. You’ll receive a **course handbook**. Bring a three-ring binder and pen or pencil.

Registration is \$235 for the four-week course.

Contact Backthird Audio at **630-264-2366** or visit **backthird.com/classes**.

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Sound Foundations II: Studio Sound – Expected Course Outline

- **Day 1: The Recording Rig**
 - Recording Rig basics
 - Analog vs digital
 - Mono, 2-track and multi-track
 - Tracking one song with four different “studios” (analog one-track, digital two-track, analog multitrack, ProTools studio)
- **Day 2: Studio acoustics and tracking principles**
 - Waves, reflections, standing waves and phase cancellation
 - Studio construction
 - Isolation – how many rooms?
 - Room properties and treatments
 - Noise/signal ratio
 - Polar patterns and frequency curves
 - Microphone types and placement
 - Microphone shootout
- **Day 3: Drum clinic and mixing principles**
 - Busses, parallel/series effects
 - Mixing principles
 - Cleaning up a mix
 - Tracking drums
 - Mixing drums
 - Compression, gating, delay
- **Day 4: The Three-Hour Record**
 - Talkback/listenback
 - Monitor mixes
 - Working with artists
 - The Three-Hour Record!

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