

Welcome to Studio A at The Music Company

Studio A Introduction & System Startup

Welcome to Studio A. This room is our biggest recording space and the most ideal for working with full bands. The control room features large monitors and subwoofers for mixing and playback, and the live room is set up for maximum flexibility of sound and use cases.

Connecting Your Computer

Using your own computer is optional - if you'd rather use ours, it's hooked up and ready to go.

1. **Remove the USB** cable marked "SQ" from our computer and connect it to yours.
2. (Optional) **Connect to the Raven screen and the mouse and keyboard:**
 - a. Move the HDMI cable marked "Raven" from our computer to yours.
 - b. *Mac systems only:* Move the USB cable marked "Lightning" from our computer to yours. Take the Lightning cable out of the keyboard and plug it into the mouse for a few seconds. Both the keyboard and the mouse should connect to your computer.
3. **No downloads are required!** In your audio settings, select "SQ - Audio" as your input and output device.

SQ Essentials

1. **The SQ** digital console **serves as the audio interface** for studio A.
2. **On the left side** of the console, there are 6 buttons marked “**Layers**” A-F. These are essentially pages of channels that allow the board to have more channels than its number of physical faders. Most of what you want is on **layer A**.
3. **On the right side** of the console, there are numbered “**Mix**” buttons, as well as one labeled “**LR**” above the others. These mixes are different physical outputs which can be controlled from the SQ.
 - a. “**LR**” is the main sound to the monitors in the room.
 - b. **Aux 1** (labeled “Headphones”) sends audio to the headphone amplifier in the live room. Before using Aux 1, push the main fader up to zero on the small Mackie mixer to the left of the SQ.
4. **Each fader**, as well as the Master fader on the right, controls the amount of that channel’s audio sent to the corresponding mix. The channel labeled “USB” is your computer’s sound. It’s quite handy to be able to send each mic directly to the control room monitors for line checks, but for typical interface playback, you’ll only want to push up “USB” and Master.
5. **Each channel** has a green “Select” button. Click “Processing” below the screen and select the desired channel to view and edit preamp and insert settings. USB audio is routed “Post-Preamp”, meaning “Pre-everything-else”; HPF, EQ, compressor & reverb through the SQ will not appear in your recordings.
 - a. To turn on phantom power to a mic, navigate to this page and hold down on the “48V” button for a few seconds.
 - b. Mic polarity is accessible through this page as well.
6. There are a handful of **white/green “In” buttons** corresponding to each insert effect. These show the status of this insert for the selected track. Again, you’ll only hear these inserts if you directly monitor that mic’s channel through the SQ.
7. **For aux playback**, navigate to Layer B, MUTE the Aux channel on the left, connect an aux cable to the “ST3” input on the top right, and unmute the channel. Be careful that channel gain and volume aren’t set too high when you unmute.
8. **To talk back** through the headphone mix, click or hold the “Talk” button to the right of the screen. You can also use the footswitch below the desk.
9. **If you connect headphones** to the SQ, “PAFL” on each channel acts as a solo button only for your headphones. Select this on the master channel to hear mixes other than LR.

Controlling The Monitors

1. **Locate the PreSonus monitor controller** to the right of the Raven display. The blue knob controls the volume in the control room.
2. **On the left are three inputs.** We normally use Input 1: the “LR” mix from the SQ. Input 2 is a mirror of Aux 1 (headphones) from the SQ, useful for setting up complex headphones mixes.
3. **On the right are three outputs.** Output 1 is the Yamaha HS8s and should always be on. Output 2 is the subwoofers, which receive only low frequencies; use or don’t use them as you please.
4. **You’ll find a few useful buttons** along the bottom: mute, dim & mono.

Connecting Mics/Routing with Patchbays

1. **Connect microphones** to any of the three wall plates of studio A.
2. **On the patchbay** below the desk on the left, route the mics to channels:
 - a. **The top row are outputs** (microphones). They’re generally coded by wall color: O(range), B(lue), T(an). CC is C Control and CL is C Live for the two breakout rooms to the side.
 - b. The left half of the **bottom row is inputs** (the SQ console). They’re numbered; use the blue wall numbers for 1-16, and count up past that.
 - c. **Triple-check** that you’re not running mic power before moving any patch cables. Select any channel from Layer A, click Processing twice, and scroll across the display looking for a red “48V” indicator on any channels.
 - d. **Plug patch cables in** to connect each microphone to corresponding channels. If the microphone output is directly above the desired channel input, no cable is needed (the patchbay will route that automatically).
 - e. **USB input channels** correspond to the marked channel numbers on Layer A. Channels 1-24 on Layer A always send direct USB signal through these channels, regardless of mute status or fader position. Be aware of this when unplugging mics or cycling power.

Lighting

1. **Feel free to use the live room lights** for tracking ambiance. Turn on the Rockville controller on the far right side of the control room desk.
2. **Find a preset you like** using the “Scene” and “Bank Up/Down” buttons.
3. **Make sure that “Auto” is turned off** - it’s indicated by a small dot on the corner of the screen, and controlled by a button on the bottom right.
4. **To turn off the spotlights**, select the four buttons on the bottom labeled “SPOT”. They should light up red. Then, push fader 1 up a bit and then all the way down.

Troubleshooting

- I can't hear anything out of the headphones in the live room.
 - Ensure that you've turned up both the Master and the desired channels on the Aux 1 mix, selected on the right.
 - Check that you've turned up the fader on the small Mackie console to the left of the SQ.
 - Make sure the headphone amp in the live room is on. It has no lights to indicate so unless you click one of the small buttons on the front.
- I can't hear anything out of the monitors in the control room.
 - Ensure that the master fader and the desired channel faders are turned up on the LR mix, selected on the right.
 - Make sure that you've turned up the volume on the monitor controller on the right of the desk.
 - Make sure that you've selected the right inputs and outputs on the monitor controller.
 - Make sure that the selected audio output on the computer is "SQ - Audio".
- It's hot in here.
 - If you're in the live room, the thermostat is on the blue wall by the drum kit.
 - If you're in the control room, it's on the wall to the right of the desk, by the door.