

How does a Demo Session Come Together?

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Answers to questions you need to know:

- How many songs?
- What is the budget?
- What are you looking for? Do you have an idea of how big of a band you want/need?

Finding a Studio

Choosing a studio is all about what you need out of it. It doesn't always need to be a large "Blackbird" style of facility. Many Musicians have home studios and can internet collaborate without ever being in the "studio" together. If a larger studio is needed, make sure it works within your budget or that you budget accordingly. Make sure to get pricing from other studios and writers. Sometimes you can negotiate with the studio on open days. Always check to see if the engineering is included in the price.

Finding an Engineer

Engineer is the most important part of a session. This person really determines the speed of the session and if the desired number of songs gets recorded in a session/ set amount of time. Time is money. Publishers have a cap on how much money can be spent per song. If that amount is exceeded, sometimes the writer pays the difference out of pocket

Finding a Band

Do some research. If there is a sound or part that you have heard on a record before. Look up who that player is, and try contacting them. Many have websites/social media you can contact through. Many can be reached through the AFM. You'd be surprised who you can get to play on your song. No two players are alike. Pick players that you like musically. Do not focus on "Who they are".

Often you can find a Point Person/Band Leader that can help put a band together and/or find a studio. That may be easier and more beneficial for writers/artists who aren't in Nashville, or are not as familiar with many musicians, engineers and studios.

How to prepare for a demo session-

- Learn to record your own acoustic/vocal for a song to send to players to listen to, or sometimes even record their part to.
- Learn how to talk to Musicians and express what you want musically
- Learn number charts
- Be Your Own Producer-Be in control of how you want your song to be.
- Have your references- Know WHO you want to pitch to (certain artist) or what style
- Know what you want to do with these recordings (releasing or selling song recording or just pitching) and know the difference of Master Scale, Limited Pressing Scale, Demo Scale.
- Know the prices for each a-la-carte aspect of recording to ensure you don't get taken advantage of.