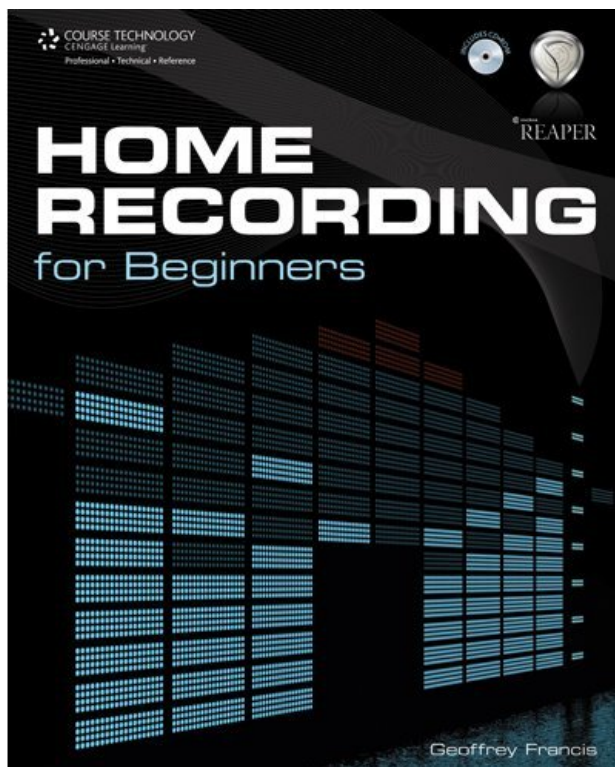


# Home Recording for Beginners

## What You'll Find in This Book

In this book you'll find:

- A gentle introduction on a down-to-earth and practical, need-to-know basis of the issues involved in setting up a home studio.
- A CD with fully functional, uncrippled, non-expiring evaluation REAPER software (including a PDF User Guide), sample files, projects, and exercises for you to work on.
- A step-by-step, lesson-by-lesson, 30-day foundation course that using REAPER will enable you to work through manageable examples that will introduce you to the main tasks involved in successful home recording, all the way from setting up a basic system, to recording your first instrument, right through to burning your first CD.
- A solid foundation from which to progress in your own time, at your own rate, and according to your own needs.
- The opportunity to grow in knowledge, competence, and confidence as the jargon and the recording environment are demystified.
- A structured learning program that lets you do this before laying out large sums of money. Most musicians will already have in their homes the minimal equipment needed to complete this course. For those who don't, the outlay required will be no more than about \$100.
- The opportunity to evaluate the issues involved in home recording and the extent to which you get involved before you need to spend any of your hard-earned cash on equipment.
- Information and advice on how to arrive at purchasing decisions that strike the optimum balance between cost and quality for you.
- A strategy to identify just what equipment you need, what you don't need, and how to get the best overall recording equipment to suit your particular budget and circumstances.
- A strategy for further growing, developing, and improving your home studio.



## Whom This Book Is For

Home Recording for Beginners is for anyone who is considering setting up a home recording studio or who has previously tried this and found it too confusing, too frustrating, or too difficult. Although written and designed primarily around the needs of the PC user, Mac users may also find it of benefit because 90 percent of its content is equally applicable in either environment.

No previous experience of recording is required to benefit from this book. A reasonable level of computer proficiency and familiarity with your operating system (for standard tasks such as installing software and organizing and backing up files) is, however, assumed.

## How This Book Is Organized

Home Recording for Beginners is divided into just five chapters plus an appendix. The appendix contains a glossary of terms.

The first two chapters have a practical, hands-on approach with an emphasis on learning by doing. The remaining three chapters use that experience as a foundation on which to graft an understanding of the technical issues that you will also need to come to grips with and enable you to spend your money wisely when purchasing equipment.

**Chapter 1, "Your Pathway to Home Recording."** This chapter introduces you to home recording and helps you to distinguish between the realities and the many myths that are prevalent in this area. It lays out clearly what you will need to work through the 30-day foundation course.

**Chapter 2, "The 30-Day Foundation Course."** This chapter introduces you systematically, step-by-step, and in a logical sequence to the many disciplines and skills required for successful home recording. Most importantly, it will guide you to an understanding of how all these pieces fit together. Among the key topics covered in this section are:

- Understanding digital audio and home recording
- Preparing yourself and your computer for home recording
- Understanding and navigating the software interface
- Creating a recording project
- Preparing and recording a simple track
- Recording further tracks: layering and overdubbing
- Identifying, understanding, and resolving potential problems when recording
- Using the clever stuff: auto-punch recording and multiple takes
- Understanding and working with MIDI
- Creating and editing MIDI tracks
- Creating and using loops
- Understanding and using samplers and sampling
- Mixing essentials: volume and pan faders
- Editing your recorded material
- Using essential plug-ins and FX: EQ, compression, and delay basics
- Understanding essential mixing techniques: using submixes and folders
- Understanding more essential mixing techniques: using track routing and busses
- Using the fun stuff: pitch and play rates
- Using more of the clever stuff: markers, macros, and automation
- Rendering for CD audio or Internet distribution

At the end of the 30-day course, there is a simple checklist to help you draw up a focused development plan. It will enable you to identify the primary areas on which you will need to concentrate most of your energies and efforts, the secondary areas you will also need to consider, and those areas you can ignore altogether.

**Chapter 3, "What Else Do I Need to Know?."** Having rolled up your sleeves and worked through a series of real examples, you'll be taken behind the scenes to understand some of the science that underpins it all. This chapter will provide you with a foundation of essential technical knowledge that you will need if you are going to progress. It demystifies terms such as audio formats, bit depth, sample rate, audio drivers, impedance, and more.

**Chapter 4, "Setting Up Your Studio."** This chapter shows you where you will need to go from here. It guides you through the different equipment that is available and helps you to identify for your own situation what you absolutely need, what might be worth considering, and what you absolutely don't need. It will help you to achieve the best possible outcome for your budget, as well as offer sound advice on how physically to go about setting up your studio at home.

**Chapter 5, "The Road Ahead."** If you're serious about home recording, it will be an ongoing commitment. This chapter discusses the road ahead and helps you to develop longer-term goals and perspectives.

**Available from Amazon.com and all other major booksellers, real world and on-line!** Recommended retail price \$34.99 but generally available at about \$25.