

# CHOOSING AN AUDIO INTERFACE

## A beginner's guide

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### KNOW YOUR COMPUTER



- Laptop or Desktop, or iPad (helps decide on size for easy mobility)
- Which OS? (Mac / Win / iOS)
- Connection Type - USB 2 / USB 3 / TB / PCIe
- Processor speed and RAM

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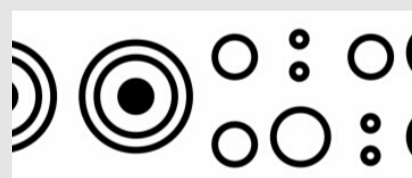
### YOUR INPUT NEEDS



- Analog Line Inputs for
  - keyboard
  - electric guitar
  - other instruments / devices (e.g. turntable)
- Number of mic inputs
  - choose based on the type of instruments or number of voices you will record together
- MIDI I/O
  - required if you plan to connect your keyboard via its MIDI ports (5-pin DIN usually)
  - not needed if you use a dedicated MIDI keyboard with VST software
- Digital Input (SPDIF, TOSLink, etc. required only if you have other digital devices to connect)

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### OUTPUT NEEDS



- Analog outputs for
  - studio monitors (stereo / surround)
  - headphones (one or more)
- Digital outs for other studio equipment
- Keep future expandability in mind too

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### BUDGET



Besides the budget, filter your options further by:

- A/D resolution supported
- other software bundled with the interface
- product build-quality
- warranty period

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### WHAT FINALLY MATTERS



- Your music & lyrics
- Your talent
- Correct use of all your home studio equipment