
Contents



	Foreword
	How Is This Book Organized?
Chapter One	The Home Recording Chain
Chapter Two	Microphones And Line Signals
Chapter Three	Analog And Digital Recording
Chapter Four	Modifiers And Beyond
Chapter Five	Multi-Track Recording
Chapter Six	Stereo Mixdown And Mastering

Chapter One

The Home Recording Chain

The home recording chain is a logical way of looking at how a home studio's components interconnect and function. Each component's role is either an energy converter (*transducer*) or a *sound modifier*. The transducer is a device that converts one form of energy to another, such as when the original sound source is transduced from sound waves in the air into an electrical signal (*audio signal*). A modifier is an electronic device that modifies one or more of the three basic components of an audio signal: pitch, volume, and timbre. The home recording chain concept illustrates how sound is transduced from a sound source, modified by a mixer, transduced to a storage medium, and then made available for listening. The home recording chain is valid whether you work with a digital medium (computer storage, digital audiotape) or analog (magnetic cassettes or reel-to-reel magnetic tape).

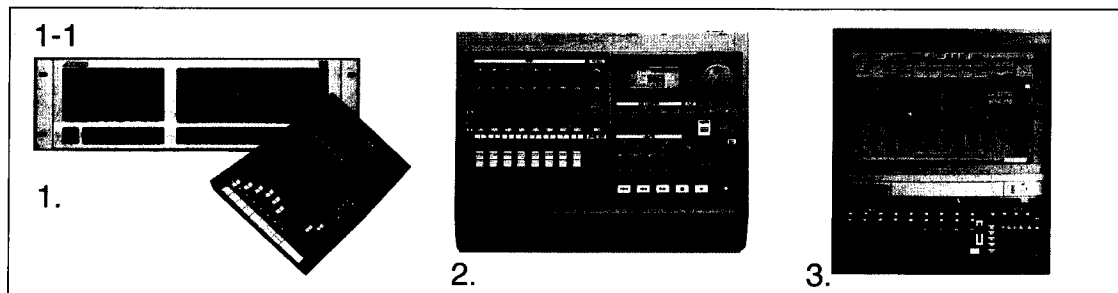


Keep in mind that the home recording chain is a one-way chain. Audio signals always flow in one direction: from the microphone to mixer, then to other areas of the home recording chain. This basic information makes connecting your studio and trouble-shooting much easier.

The Home Recording Chain—Formats

Home recording can use one of three distinct ways to create the same results. A home recording chain will be one of the following:

1. Independently purchased audio components.
2. Integrated, or "all-in-one," portable studio system.
3. A personal computer equipped with virtual studio software.



<<Diagram 1-1>>