



# HOW TO RECORD VOCALS AT HOME (WITH SOME QUALITY)

## SET UP THE RIGHT GEAR

- ☐ Microphone – Preferably a condenser mic (USB or XLR)
- ☐ Audio Interface – For XLR mics; Focusrite, Behringer, or similar
- ☐ Pop Filter – Reduces harsh plosives like “P” and “B”
- ☐ Mic Stand – Keeps your mic stable and hands-free
- ☐ Headphones – Closed-back headphones to avoid bleed
- ☐ Cables – Good quality XLR or USB cables

## PREPARE YOUR RECORDING SPACE

- ☐ Quiet Environment – Turn off fans, ACs, and other noise sources
- ☐ Soft Surfaces – Use curtains, carpets, pillows, blankets to absorb sound
- ☐ Mic Placement – Avoid recording in the center of a room; try corners with treatment
- ☐ Isolation – If you can, record in a treated closet or vocal booth

## OPTIMIZE YOUR RECORDING CHAIN

- ☐ Mic Gain – Set it so you're not peaking (aim for -12dB to -6dB)
- ☐ Input Levels – Check DAW levels; avoid clipping
- ☐ Direct Monitoring – Use it if your interface supports it, for real-time feedback

## TEST BEFORE YOU GO

- ☐ Mic Check – Record a quick test to listen for noise, pops, and levels
- ☐ Try Different Distances – Find your sweet spot (usually 15–25 cm) Vacuum and clean under the bed.
- ☐ Practice Phrasing – Know your lyrics and vocal dynamics beforehand

## RECORD CLEAN

- ☐ Dry Takes First – Avoid reverb or FX while tracking
- ☐ Multiple Takes – Always record 2–3 takes per section
- ☐ Stay Hydrated – Drink water, avoid dairy before recording
- ☐ Watch Your Posture – Stand or sit straight for better breath control

## PREPARE FOR MIXING

- ☐ Edit Out Noise – Remove mouth clicks, breaths (when needed)
- ☐ Gain Stage – Make sure all vocal tracks are at a good starting level
- ☐ Export or Bounce – Save clean stems for mixing or collaboration

