



**Making Records : with Rockethouse**  
**Interview with Wade Settle by Hillary Johnson**  
(August 2007)

**Do you have your own monthly practice space or do you do the hourly thing?**

We have our own monthly rehearsal space, we've had it for years and it's way more convenient than a monthly.

**If you record your rehearsals, what do you use to record them and is there one person in the band that handles all of that?**

We use an old Aiwa cassette deck if we ever record practices. We normally don't record rehearsals anymore though. We rely on our ears, and memory.

**Do you consider making demos to be an important part of making an album? Have you found it helps the writing process?**

I think demos are very important. We use a lot of samples/synths/beats for the backing tracks or structures of our songs. These are first setup as a song template that we demo live, and then tweak until we record them for a final mix.

**Where and how do you record demos?**

I usually record most of my work in my Roland Fantom X workstation. I have all our synth sounds, beats, etc. loaded into that. From there I sequence everything finalized into Ableton Live or Pro Tools 7. I make a backing track/click track for us to play to into our Korg D8 for live purposes.

**Who gets to hear the demos? Are they just for your own learning process or have they helped get you shows/record deals/etc in the past?**

I think mostly I just walk around listening to the demos on my iPod. I send them to the rest of the band, but I think we usually just try stuff out at rehearsal. A lot of times I just introduce it to the others if I really think it's good, or it gets stuck in my head. Most of the demos have starting off a beat, bass, that we embellish and expand upon with real time playing.

**How much and what kind of pre-production do you do before going in to record a record?**

We do as much pre-production as we can before going in to record a record. Normally it saves us time and money. The last record, we had each song already started in a Pro Tools session. We had rough vocals, basslines, you name it. We saved so much time and knew exactly what to expect.

**Is there one person in the band that is more recording-saavy than the rest?**

I think I'm the geek in the band. I buy and read recording/music gear magazines, manuals. I am a gear junkie as well. The other members are more pro at the instrument they play.

**Do you record your own records or do you hire an outside person? And why?**

We record our own records. We will find someone to assist in mixing and recording, but we know what we're doing.

**Do you think your approach to making records suits you or is it only what you can afford or what business-people expect from you?**

It's what we can afford at the moment. In an ideal world, we would have Alan Moulder, Liam Howlett, or someone who knows how to work with rock and roll and electronic music.

**What was the recording budget for your last record and how was that money divided up?**

We were just given a small amount from Fabtone Records in Japan to record. It was barely enough to really record and mix. They mastered for us. We took what we could get.

**Did you record together live with amp bleed or with isolation or was everything pieced together?**

We recorded the drums, bass and guitars at the same time. The guitar was in a separate room, as well as the bass amp, but they played together.

**Are you generally happy with the end result?**

Mostly for what we could do with the time and money we were given. Although it sounds better unmastered than what the Japanese used for mastering.

**What's something you learned from making the last record (technical or philosophical)?**

Keep all the takes, make sure you rest, keep your ears fresh.