
Subject: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2004 18:31:25 GMT
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i'm curious who you all think makes great indie rock records.

name as many as you want, and give a few album credits that you think sound great.

Scott Solter = John Vanderslice, Cellar Door.

he should change is name to tchad blake jr.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [spankenstein](#) on Sat, 01 May 2004 16:27:43 GMT
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Ed Rose - The Get Up Kids - Guilt Show, The Casket Lottery - Possibilities and Maybes.

j robbins - Mock Orange - Mind is Not Brains, Hey Mercedes, The Promise Ring - Very
Emergency (I don't want to hear any comments about this either).

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Patheticus](#) on Sat, 01 May 2004 22:34:39 GMT
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I think Jeff from Houston did an awesome job on Houston's "Bottom of the Curve". Especially for being a mackie/adat recording. If you haven't heard Houston before... I suggest you do so.
www.onesimpleband.com

And speaking of Mackies and adats, Ken Andrews did a pretty kick ass job on Failure's "Fantastic Planet".

Annd... this isn't indie but shit, I love the way Tom Petty records sound. I only say that cause he's bumpin on my playlist right now.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [chickenbop](#) on Sun, 02 May 2004 01:58:42 GMT
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Dave Fridmann's stuff sounds the coolest but the bands he does seem to be at the same time silly and melodramatic-flaming lips, Sparklehorse, etc. Don't get me wrong, I like those bands but I can't listen to them all the time.

Bryce Goggin's records sound real unique-spacehog, Pavement.

John Agnello is awesome-the Dinosaur Jr records he did were great.

I think most indie-rock engineers sound kind of weak. Maybe it's more budget than talent though.

Wilco's sound used to be real thick-like a.m.'s and being there's guitars and drums sounded awesome. But the crap sound on Yankee Hotel makes me want to puke. The sound of the guitars on YHFT sound like they should be from some bad singer-songwriter in the '70's. Like Cat Stevens or Jim Croce I think?

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [stickman](#) on Sun, 02 May 2004 09:19:10 GMT
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Casey Rice,

if only for making "The Gap" by Joan of Arc...

and he's an Aussie now too.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [meverylame](#) on Sun, 02 May 2004 20:37:16 GMT
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chickenbop wrote on Sat, 01 May 2004 21:58

Wilco's sound used to be real thick-like a.m.'s and being there's guitars and drums sounded awesome. But the crap sound on Yankee Hotel makes me want to puke. The sound of the guitars on YHFT sound like they should be from some bad singer-songwriter in the '70's. Like Cat Stevens or Jim Croce I think?

Really? I'm a rather large fan of the sound on YHF. I think that both Chris Brickley and Jim O'Rourke did a fine job on the record.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [carne_de_res](#) on Tue, 04 May 2004 18:40:56 GMT
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nice thread!
my current favourite is Nick Di Dia.his work on
Matthew Sweet's records is amazing to me.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [redelephant](#) on Tue, 04 May 2004 23:44:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I think Ed Rose sucks, personally. He has the best stuff at his fingertips and he still can't make The Get Up Kids records sound 'alive'. I'm not talking major label alive, i am talking personable, in your face, you know all that shit. I have listened to most of his stuff including the Casket Lottery and Long Since Forgotten tracks. Still wasn't all that impressed.

My favorites have to be old Mark Trombino records (Drive Like Jehu, Jimmy Eat World, Thingy, Mock Orange). I think the stuff he puts out now is a bit to Pro Tools'y. Which isn't bad, but not the Trombino for my palette.

John Agnello who did the old Jawbox records is definitely one of my favorites.

J. Robbins is doing big sounding records lately, which I like.

Hmm. There are tons more, but some might not be considered indie producers.

Great thread.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [egg_](#) on Wed, 05 May 2004 13:29:05 GMT
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Shouldn't Albini be on this list? I think so

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Wed, 05 May 2004 13:49:25 GMT
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redelephant wrote on Tue, 04 May 2004 18:44: I think Ed Rose sucks, personally. He has the best stuff at his fingertips and he still can't make The Get Up Kids records sound 'alive'. I'm not talking major label alive, I am talking personable, in your face, you know all that shit. I have listened to most of his stuff including the Casket Lottery and Long Since Forgotten tracks. Still wasn't all that impressed.

I don't think he totally sucks. Ed knows what he's doing, you might not like the end result, but he knows what's up.

I think his records end up very thin, no low end. I've described his work as:

"the only man I know that can make any speaker and any system, anywhere on the planet, sound like NS-10s."

he monitors way too loud and has probably blown out his hearing permanently.

but one thing he is very good at is guitar tones and getting a big thick wall of guitars.

about the Get Up Kids.....I wouldn't blame Ed for that. Every record they have put out has been a sonic shit sandwich.

I'm not a fan of their music at all, so I don't own any of the records and I can't comment on that. I've heard most of everything they have put out.....I'm seriously surprised they have risen to the "fame" they have selling such garbage product. (speaking of sonics only)

Even Scott Lit couldn't put out anything good. Seriously, the track record is there, it has to be the band and not the mix engineer.

Quote:

My favorites have to be old Mark Trombino records (Drive Like Jehu, Jimmy Eat World, Thingy, Mock Orange). I think the stuff he puts out now is a bit too Pro Tools'y. Which isn't bad, but not the Trombino for my palette.

AGREED!!!

trombino rules.....i think he has become sucked into the LA world of flawless perfection no matter the cost. but really, even the last few jimmy eat world records (edited and autotuned to death) still have that trombino sound.....and i like it.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [spankenstein](#) on Wed, 05 May 2004 18:44:06 GMT
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j.hall wrote on Wed, 05 May 2004 08:49

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trombino rules.....i think he has become sucked into the LA world of flawless perfection no matter the cost. but really, even the last few jimmy eat world records (edited and autotuned to death) still have that trombino sound.....and i like it.

It is definitely loud in the control room at Red House... err Black Lodge.

After the NS-10 comment I see what you mean. I had noticed the low end but everything always sounded "together" to me. Especially the guitars which as a bass player/guitarist I notice a lot. However now that I'm putting effort in to drums I'm paying more attention to that area.

The last Jimmy Eat World is on the verge of being overproduced. I can't beleive I didn't think of that album. I haven't listened to it in a while though.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [redelephant](#) on Wed, 05 May 2004 21:43:55 GMT
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spankenstein wrote on Wed, 05 May 2004 19:44
The last Jimmy Eat World is on the verge of being overproduced. I can't believe I didn't think of that album. I haven't listened to it in a while though.

You should hear some of Mark's newer stuff. For instance, Finch (a bunch of 18 year olds). The record is completely sound replaced and Auto-Tuned to the bone. This isn't bad though. He does it with such style and grace. I give him all the props in the world for making good records from not so hot talent.

Jimmy Eat World - Clarity has to be one of my favorite records of all time, and I think it has a lot to do with the aesthetic of the mix. So Trombino has got my props for life. Even though Jimmy Eat World kicked his out for their new record. Fucking rock stars. I heard they were getting Gil Norton... should be solid.

I agree that Ed Roses' mixes sound like NS-10's. Either way, I still think he does a poor job for what's he has available to him. But you guys are KC boys, so I sense a little hometown love. :)

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [spankenstein](#) on Thu, 06 May 2004 00:22:36 GMT
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Just the music that I've listened to a lot of. Fmailarity.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Thu, 06 May 2004 03:07:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

redelephant wrote on Wed, 05 May 2004 16:43But you guys are KC boys, so I sense a little hometown love. :)

not at all.

i know Ed as a mere acquaintance.....

this town has little to do with me and vice versa, i get most of my work from out of town....in fact, probably 80%.

Ed used to be the biggest flag waving hater of digital.....a total analog junkie

and what seemed to be a blink of the eye, he was on PT editing drums and auto tuning with the best of em.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Conner](#) on Mon, 10 May 2004 20:12:25 GMT
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I am new to this whole process, but couldn't resist responding...Trombino is a bad ass. Older stuff evidenced: Mineral-End Serenading, Knapsack-This conversation is Ending Starting Right Now(ME) Clarity, the list goes on...New stuff is good but I am a fan of the "dirty" Trombino.

As far as Gil Norton is concerned, I think that man is a genius. He can make any major label artist sound like the coolest indie rock band in the world. A definite guilty pleasure has to be K's Choice-Cocoon Crash. Do yourself a favor and get reacquainted with that record as a whole. But then again what do I know...I just like to share my opinions.
Hope this helped.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Bivouac](#) on Tue, 11 May 2004 06:02:32 GMT
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First off, I think "Clarity" was a sonic masterpiece. Perfectly performed and recorded. "Bleed American" sounded a little too "comfortable" for my tastes though. I think a new producer is

exactly what the doctor ordered and Gil Norton is the man for the job. I personally think he's getting some of the best sounds in major label music today. I despise the bands, but Dashboard Confessional and The Distiller's latest records were really, really well recorded. Not to mention the dude did a number of Pixies albums...

I've heard a couple of live recordings of new Jimmy Songs, and it sounds like Mr. Norton is going to have some great material to work with.

As far as the Get up Kids? The best recorded stuff they've ever done was at the beginning of their "Eudora" CD. Their cover of the Cure's "Close to me" is simply superb. Otherwise the best 'album' was the one where they took a break from Ed Rose, "On a Wire". The more "rock" songs (particularly the title track) have some of the tightest bass I've ever heard recorded. The producer (name escapes me at the moment) did a bunch of R.E.M. records...

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Tue, 11 May 2004 13:30:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Bivouac wrote on Tue, 11 May 2004 01:02

As far as the Get up Kids? The best recorded stuff they've ever done was at the beginning of their "Eudora" CD. Their cover of the Cure's "Close to me" is simply superb. Otherwise the best 'album' was the one where they took a break from Ed Rose, "On a Wire". The more "rock" songs (particularly the title track) have some of the tightest bass I've ever heard recorded. The producer (name escapes me at the moment) did a bunch of R.E.M. records...

4 minute mile....recorded by bob weston
something to write home about.....recorded by chad blinman and alex brahl
on a wire.....recorded by scott lit.

3 out of 4 full length were never touched by ed rose.

they bought the studio that Ed worked at. i think he bought in with them but i'm not sure about that.

fact of the matter is, from about 1.5 years ago, and forward to the for see-able future, they will be working with Ed on all their side projects and whatever they are up to. it's pure economics.....and obviously, sound quality is not an issue with this band.....IMO, working with Ed is a huge improvement in sonics over anything they have done in the past.

although, chad blinman does make good sounding records and obviously scott lit does too.....which once again leads me to believe that the band, or matt pryor specifically, is the leading force in their overall terrible sound on records.

<http://www.blacklodgerecording.com/>

<http://www.edrose.com/>

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [spankenstein](#) on Tue, 11 May 2004 14:23:15 GMT
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On a Wire is barely listenable to me. Just flat. The songs. The sound. Just boring the whole way through.

I don't know who was the engineer but [u]Where You Been?[/b] by Dinosaur Jr. always sounded really good to me. The kick on that album always sounded huge. I have it on vinyl somewhere.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Zack Reinig](#) on Sun, 16 May 2004 02:17:57 GMT
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Phil Ellivrum for Microphones and Mirah. Nobody catches true emotion like him.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [egg_](#) on Mon, 17 May 2004 11:46:49 GMT
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Gil Norton!

Only know his Pixies stuff - Doolittle is good if you turn it up, but I think Bossanova and Trompe Le Monde are awful. That big cheeseey snare sound is totally inappropriate IMHO

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Zoesch](#) on Tue, 18 May 2004 13:07:09 GMT
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Donnell Cameron for NOFX, Bad Religion and Drive Like Jehu
David Ogilvie for Skinny Puppy, All Systems Go and Sloan
Andy Gill for The Jesus Lizard (And his Gang Of Four legacy)
Anjali Dutt for My Bloody Valentine and Swervedriver
Steven Fjelstad for Husker Du
Spot for a shitload of stuff that's too long to mention

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Phillip Graham](#) on Tue, 18 May 2004 21:39:40 GMT
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This is a fun thread, as I grew up on a lot of the music mentioned here.

I like the work Trombino has done, especially Clarity.

One guy who isn't super well known, but who I think makes great records, is Matt Goldman here in Atlanta, mostly recently an excellent pop nugget for the band Copeland.

I've used another album of his, by Florida band Dennison Marris, as my live "indie rock" tuning CD (I do mostly live mixing) for years.

I'm sure there are many "local heros" out there.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [tympano](#) on Thu, 20 May 2004 06:42:03 GMT
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Hey All,

This is my first post and I just had to chime in on this discussion.

Mark Nevers (Will Oldham's "Master & Everyone, More Revery" & Andrew Bird's "Weather Systems") is making very beautiful records right now.

Couldn't believe he hadn't been mentioned yet so I had to throw him in the mix.

--Justin

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [MB](#) on Thu, 20 May 2004 19:55:33 GMT
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Martin Hannett

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [NelsonL](#) on Fri, 21 May 2004 11:40:50 GMT
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I've heard some good work coming from Pete Min in NYC lately.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Fri, 21 May 2004 13:23:06 GMT
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Bryce Goggin

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [cominginsecond](#) on Fri, 21 May 2004 21:40:26 GMT
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The two Phils: Ek and Elvrum.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Meriphew](#) on Fri, 21 May 2004 23:09:54 GMT
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Not "big" indie names, but I think they're both doing some great work:

Craig Schumacher (Calexico, Neko Case, Ladybug Transistor).

Kip Beelman (Sleater-Kinney, Maktub, Damien Jurado, The Long Winters).

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 14:16:35 GMT
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Meriphew wrote on Fri, 21 May 2004 18:09
Kip Beelman (Sleater-Kinney, Maktub, Damien Jurado, The Long Winters).

you forgot Juno

beelman RULES

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 14:19:07 GMT
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cominginsecond wrote on Fri, 21 May 2004 16:40The two Phils: Ek and Elvrum.

what do you like about ek's style.....i'm curious.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [cominginsecond](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 18:06:12 GMT
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On the BTS records he is able to stack track after track of guitar without completely submerging any of them. Each guitar track is where it needs to be in the mix. Also, I really think the mixes on the last three BTS records sound really big and nice. I wasn't too fond of the drum sound on Perfect From Now On (the snare seemed a little thin to me), but other than that, the BTS records sound amazing to me. I just think he does a great job with guitars.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Meriphew](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 19:07:00 GMT
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j.hall wrote on Mon, 24 May 2004 07:16Meriphew wrote on Fri, 21 May 2004 18:09
Kip Beelman (Sleater-Kinney, Maktub, Damien Jurado, The Long Winters).
beelman RULES
I think so too. I'm going to have him mix my next release.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [carne_de_res](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 20:51:56 GMT
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[quote title=Meriphew wrote on Sat, 22 May 2004 01:09]

Craig Schumacher (Calexico)

Calexico records sound amazing to me,especially "Black Light".
Nina Nastasia's "The blackened air",recorded by Steve Albini,is
also a personal favourite.

damn,i wish the stuff i record sounded half that natural!

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Rivers](#) on Tue, 25 May 2004 04:01:36 GMT
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I've been digging Thom Monahan stuff with the Pernice Brothers and Bigger Lovers,also Chris Walla with some of the Death cab for cutie stuff and Brian Deck/Moderst Mouse for the Moon and Antartica.

Cellar door is damn cool.

I've always enjoyed Eck stuff with BTS...which Modest Mouse did he work on?

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Claudio Leite](#) on Tue, 25 May 2004 14:35:21 GMT
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I'll agree with Ed Rose and TGUK sounding a bit flat. On Guilt Show, some of the tracks sound markedly better than others, for example 'Holy Roman' sounds quite good to me, whereas 'Man of Conviction' sounds thin and just plain bad. I've seem them live and their sound was rather good, but I do think they're a little to blame for their sound.

I do like the older stuff Ed Rose did with the Appleseed Cast - Mare Vitalis and the two Low Level Owl albums. I can't say I'm a huge fan of his work on the latest Cast album.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Tue, 25 May 2004 15:23:47 GMT
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the problem i see with phil eck is that he's perfect for built to spill, but everything is mixed perfectly for built to spill.....it just doesn't always work

his work with modest mouse i do enjoy. and i like how he presents the band as a little weirder then they are.....which for them, is pretty weird....hahaha

the mixes just have no lowend

same with ed rose.....no lowend

with ed, the mixes are balanced really well until you get to the vocal.....it's mixed so far back you might as well have not cut a vocal track.

i've often thought of ed's work as "close but no cigar" to earlier andy wallace mixes

the guitars are loud, in your face and the drums are right there.....great rock balance, but wheres the bass.....

and andy gets the vocal up nice a hot, and has AWESOME reverbs and delays.....ed's reverbs sound like bad factory presets

but hey....what do i know.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [e_shaub](#) on Thu, 27 May 2004 03:43:39 GMT
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I also opt for Steve Albini. His work with Nina Nastasia is an example of truly stunning engineering, as are many of his other 1000 or so recordings.

Fridmann's work with The Delgados and Mogwai is wonderful as well, in my opinion.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [spankenstein](#) on Thu, 27 May 2004 19:21:09 GMT
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I like set back vocals. I just don't put much into the words as a whole and just take the vocals as

another instrument carrying a melody. I'm happy to hum along with songs and not know the words. That is of course an over generalization as there are some songs that the lyrics really drive it and make me like it but that's definitely not how things hit me at first.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [yodadbl07](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2004 22:43:50 GMT
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punk = Andy Ernst at The Art of Ears

good

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [judah](#) on Thu, 08 Jul 2004 10:42:41 GMT
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chickenbop wrote on Sun, 02 May 2004 03:58 Dave fridmann's stuff sounds the coolest but the bands he does seem to be at the same time silly and melodramatic-flaming lips,sparklehorse,etc.Don't get me wrong,I like those bands but I can't listen to them all the time. Bryce Goggins' records sound real unique-spacehog,pavement. John Agnello is awesome-the dinosaur jr records he did were great. I think most indie-rock engineers sound kind of weak.Maybe it's more budget than talent though. Wilco's sound used to be real thick-like a.m.'s and being there's guitars and drums sounded awesome.But the crap sound on yankee hotel makes me want to puke.The sound of the guitars on yhft sound like they should be from some bad singer-songwriter in the '70's.Like cat stevens or jim croce I think?

Hi all,
just got back after months and months of doin'nothing in the audio field. I thought this one was the best thread to catch back. In my opinion YHF is one of the best sounding album in my small collection. Just got "A ghost is born". Rather dark sounding album. Anyone?

R.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [craig boychuk](#) on Thu, 08 Jul 2004 16:33:03 GMT
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redelephant wrote on Tue, 04 May 2004 18:44I think Ed Rose sucks, personally. He has the best stuff at his fingertips and he still can't make The Get Up Kids records sound 'alive'. I'm not talking major label alive, i am talking personable, in your face, you know all that shit. I have listened to most of his stuff including the Casket Lottery and Long Since Forgotten tracks. Still wasn't all that impressed.

I was assisting him on a session here for this pop-punk "band" a couple of years ago. He was doing these ridiculous punch-ins - syllables of words, singles notes for instruments, etc. Also, used a click track for each song. Very over-analyzed, which is what I think sucked the life out of the project. Perhaps this is what he does as a matter of course, which would explain the lack of personality on other stuff he's done. He monitors very loud, I had to stand far away from those poor ns-10s.

I'm not a fan, but he did get some nice sounds.

And back to the original topic....

BOB WESTON!

Fuck yeah!

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Thu, 08 Jul 2004 17:22:41 GMT
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mid-fi wrote on Thu, 08 July 2004 11:33

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i've heard this about him as well.....he didn't used to be like that when he was a flag waving analog tape lover

another example of "given the power of PT, he WILL abuse it"

Quote:

He monitors very loud, I had to stand far away from those poor ns-10s.

NO DOUBT....at this point, it's simply an issue of him being able to hear.....

he's monitoring that loud for MANY years now.....might explain why the mixes have little to no low end.

Quote:

I'm not a fan, but he did get some nice sounds.

no question he gets great guitar sounds

Quote:

BOB WESTON!

Fuck yeah!

speaking of no bass.....



Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Conner](#) on Fri, 09 Jul 2004 13:10:05 GMT
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I have to tell you, I've been following Matt Goldman's work for the last couple years, and all I can say is he's gotten a lot better. I wasn't a fan of his earlier material, but I did hear that last Copeland record. Very well done. Too bad they sound a little too much like Seven Day Jesus/Matthew/Brian McSweeney.

Mr. Goldman has stolen alot of the market from the Orlando area, for some reason everyone there really loves his work. Not sure if thats just a budget thing or what. Anyone know more about how this guy operates and how he seems to corner certain markets/regions?

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [mogwailoveyou](#) on Fri, 09 Jul 2004 14:25:35 GMT
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gtphill wrote on Tue, 18 May 2004 16:39I've used another album of his, by Florida band Dennison MARRS, as my live "indie rock" tuning CD (I do mostly live mixing) for years.

denison mARRS is a talented group, nice fellas too, although i swear the mixing on "oxygen" sounds just like a deftones song (not that there's anything wrong with that...)

as far as good engineers i really like kenneth vaughan thomas' work with sigur ros... so expansive.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Phillip Graham](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 2004 20:12:54 GMT
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mogwailoveyou wrote on Fri, 09 July 2004 10:25gtphill wrote on Tue, 18 May 2004 16:39I've used another album of his, by Florida band Dennison MARRS, as my live "indie rock" tuning CD (I do mostly live mixing) for years.

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"Oxygen" was on the album prior to when Matt Goldman started doing their records. Matt's first record with them was "World Reknown for Romance" which was the disc I use as a reference.

They had Matt track a second disk (Then is the new now), and then the label had some guy tote his Genelecs into Matt's room and try to mix it. A mistake, as the record has too much low/low mid energy on it. Gotta know the space you are mixing in.

Matt's work on Copeland's "Beneath Medicine Tree" is really excellent, too, especially when you see how bad the band is live.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Conner](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 2004 13:19:58 GMT
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If you guys are into Copeland then please check out Matthew. You'll see where the singer got 90% of his influence from(Brian McSweeney). Matthew's new shit sounds a bit like Muse. It sucks to say that because Brian always gets compared to people like Buckley too much. When you have a vocal range and sweet ass vibrato like he does its hard not to.

As far as Dennison Marrs goes, I haven't liked them too much. I have had some very unpleasant meetings with those kids before. They seem to have the attitude: "If you are in no place to help me out, then I have no time for you." The funny thing was they didn't know I was a producer. Besides, their best work in my opinion was when they were called Divine Child. Albums sounded terrible but sonically it was powerful. If you know Divine Child at all then listen to Dear Ephesus, this is the band they studied under for about 3 years. That was a band before their time.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Phillip Graham](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 2004 14:55:12 GMT
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Conner wrote on Thu, 30 September 2004 09:19If you guys are into Copeland then please check

out Matthew. You'll see where the singer got 90% of his influence from(Brian McSweeney). Matthew's new shit sounds a bit like Muse. It sucks to say that because Brian always gets compared to people like Buckley too much. When you have a vocal range and sweet ass vibrato like he does its hard not to.

I'm not into Copeland, seeing them live several times further confirms they suck. Matt really polished a turd there, sound wise.

I am very familiar with Mr. McSweeney, all the way back to his "Seven Day Jesus." Matthew's "Everybody Down" on Rykodisc is a tepid record, at best, in my book, especially if you are going to compare it to Muse! Brian's vocals can't save it.

If you like McSweeney/Bellamy, you should give a listen to Atlanta's Red Letter Agent. I'd call it brit influenced power pop. James, the lead singer, is very much in that same excellent vocal vein, and perhaps the most on pitch singer live I've ever seen.

Quote:

As far as Dennison Marrs goes, I haven't liked them too much. I have had some very unpleasant meetings with those kids before. They seem to have the attitude: "If you are in no place to help me out, then I have no time for you." The funny thing was they didn't know I was a producer.

I see you've received a heavy dose of Kyle, their former manager. He was very much that way.

What records have you worked on as a producer?

Quote:

Besides, their best work in my opinion was when they were called Divine Child. Albums sounded terrible but sonically it was powerful.

In a straight ahead simple emo sort of way. I have that EP. I personally feel they've grown quite a bit since then.

Quote:

If you know Divine Child at all then listen to Dear Ephesus, this is the band they studied under for about 3 years. That was a band before their time.

Brett and Lou are friends of friend, and I would agree with you about them being before their time.

Consolation of Pianissimo is a powerful record, if not the best recording.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [jimmyjazz](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 2004 16:24:16 GMT
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Jim Eno does a very nice job on Spoon's records, both as the engineer and the drummer.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [NelsonL](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 2004 17:32:56 GMT
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jimmyjazz wrote on Thu, 30 September 2004 09:24: Jim Eno does a very nice job on Spoon's records, both as the engineer and the drummer.

I agree, I think those records sound great. I think that their technique and their arrangements complement each other well. It seems like the way they make records really serves the music well -- not every band that records themselves can pull this off.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [jimmyjazz](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 2004 17:55:15 GMT
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Jim has a nice little one-room garage studio, and he's very keen on "vintage" gear. I haven't been over there in a while, but he was tracking to a 1" 16-track deck for years. Not too long ago he had an old Neve board installed and overhauled.

I saw him last week and he said the next record is coming along nicely. I think they're getting close to mixing it. Can't wait.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....

Posted by [Ryan A. Mills](#) on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 03:18:37 GMT

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Up here in Ontario, Canada, we get great records from Ian Blurton (The Weakerthans, C'Mon, etc) and Andy Magoffin (The Constantines, Royal City).

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....

Posted by [Thomas Lester](#) on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 19:07:32 GMT

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j.hall wrote on Fri, 21 May 2004 09:23 Bryce Goggin

Agreed... but that's only because I worked as one of Bryce's assistants for a couple of years and he helped me develop my style. I also engineered for him on a few things he produced (when he wasn't manning the ship). Good guy, good friend, good engineer/producer.

-Tom

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....

Posted by [sharky](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 06:21:49 GMT

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Noticed Mark Trombino was mentioned a few times here. I'm pretty sure he did Smile's "Girl Crushes Boy". I'm not really an engineer, but I love the way that record sounds. In fact if you haven't heard it, run don't walk, to get your ears on it.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....

Posted by [takeout](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 17:37:23 GMT

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Rivers wrote on Tue, 25 May 2004 05:01 I've been digging Thom Monahan stuff with the Pernice

Brothers and Bigger Lovers...
Fuck yes. Awesome bands both.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [takeout](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 17:39:09 GMT
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mid-fi wrote on Thu, 08 July 2004 17:33BOB WESTON!

Fuck yeah!
Fuck no.

Just my opinion...

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [craig boychuk](#) on Wed, 01 Dec 2004 03:48:42 GMT
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Al Sutton

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [patina praxis](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2004 00:42:37 GMT
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I really like the stuff Larry Crane did with Quasi.

Phil Ek with BTS, yeah that's great. Albini is a legend and deserves it, yes.

i've seen Scott Solter work and he's really fast and consistently good.

besides that i think what i like the best in indie rock is the lo-fi stuff that bands do themselves on 8-track half-inch.

have you heard that Gris Gris album? recorded themselves on 8-track, and it's totally beautiful with spring reverb all over the place. that's the kind of cloudy, murky, atmospheric (but not muddy) recording i really like.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [JackJohnston](#) on Sat, 08 Oct 2005 19:53:24 GMT
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Quote:

I also opt for Steve Albini. His work with Nina Nastasia is an example of truly stunning engineering, as are many of his other 1000 or so recordings.

The Nina Nastasia stuff should be put into the best sounding albums ever made thread. I can listen to Dogs or The Blackened Air right after listening to a Paul Simon record and it still sounds fantastic.

Jack Johnston

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [rollmottle](#) on Sun, 09 Oct 2005 22:06:18 GMT
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John McEntire.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [funkcore](#) on Sun, 09 Oct 2005 22:09:37 GMT
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I gotta mention Brian McTernan, he's done everything from super spacey, effect heavy albums (Cave In's "Jupiter") to straight, very dry punk metal (Thrice's "The Illusion of Safety"). He might be a little out of place on this list because he does bands that are more in the hardcore/ punk scene, but each of the albums he works on are very varied and I think he does a great job producing, tracking, and mixing the albums he works on.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [TheViking](#) on Tue, 11 Oct 2005 16:04:27 GMT
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funkcore wrote on Sun, 09 October 2005 18:09 I gotta mention Brian McTernan, he's done everything from super spacey, effect heavy albums (Cave In's "Jupiter") to straight, very dry punk metal (Thrice's "The Illusion of Safety"). He might be a little out of place on this list because he does bands that are more in the hardcore/ punk scene, but each of the albums he works on are very varied and I think he does a great job producing, tracking, and mixing the albums he works on.

Dito... Brian McTernan is often overlooked and he definately is a guy who I look up to as a producer and engineer. 'Illusion of Safety' is awesome!!! It's not even the kind of music that I normally am into but the way that record is presented is really refreshing.

There is a band from around here called This Day & Age that's gaining some momentum on the national level and they worked with Ed Rose. My band played a bunch of shows with TD&A right before they cut their record at Blacklodge. Good live band - lots of energy and big rock sound. I got the record Ed did and was like 'who sucked out all the rock?' - the record was very safe and almost produced like a pop record. I guess after hearing the band rock out all those times, I wasn't expecting to hear such a drastic change. I feel the same way about the Long Since Forgotten records. Ed's definately got game, don't get me wrong. I like a lot of his records (i.e. Brandston, The New Amsterdams, The Anniversary). I just think that sometimes he can be a bit 'one dimensional' in the sense that when you work with him, you get pushed through his 'sound' and his 'thing'.

I also think a lot of it has to do with seeing the bands play live. I don't know if a lot of producers actually go out and sees a lot of the bands they work with play live before they cut their records. I know I do. I know a lot of bands that have worked with 'producers' like Ed that have told me the producer has never seen them play live. This doesn't make any sense to me. How can a producer present an artist correctly without ever seeing the band perform?

Oh, and I also agree... Trombino rules!

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Josht](#) on Mon, 17 Oct 2005 03:41:53 GMT
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rollmottle wrote on Sun, 09 October 2005 15:06John McEntire.

I like what he did with the new Teenage Fanclub album a lot. I also like Craig Pilkington's work with the Lucksmiths.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [littlehat](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 06:15:13 GMT
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David Bazan - Pedro the Lion - Control

I keep coming back to this record for how good the wrong sounds can sound together.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [TheViking](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 14:54:21 GMT
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littlehat wrote on Mon, 24 October 2005 02:15David Bazan - Pedro the Lion - Control

I keep coming back to this record for how good the wrong sounds can sound together.

Actually, I believe Aaron Sprinkle produced 'Control'. It's one of Aaron's few records that actually have 'vibe' IMO.

David is an amazing writer and all of his records have 'his sound' to them that really draws people into it. I think production-wise, with him you just kinda let him do his thing and make sure you have all your mics and settings in place to capture his 'moments'. I'd love to have the opportunity to record his genius someday.

He's a storyteller and I love his work.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [j.hall](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 15:04:58 GMT
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i don't believe aaron is credited on the record.

speaking of Pedro's Control.....that record should have been called, "Compressed"

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [TheViking](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 15:23:09 GMT
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Aaron and David both engineered and mixed Control. So I guess you could say they were co-producers since no named producer is sited on the album artwork. My assistant actually knows Aaron pretty well and I guess from hearing him talk about that record often to me, I just assumed Aaron produced it as well. There are very few records that Aaron works on that he isn't the producer of. Pardon my confusion.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [adam_w](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 16:06:56 GMT
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Martin Hannett...

is unfortunately, quite dead. :cry:

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Jacob Eli](#) on Wed, 19 Apr 2006 01:13:50 GMT
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meverylame wrote on Sun, 02 May 2004 16:37:37
chickenbop wrote on Sat, 01 May 2004 21:58:58

Wilco's sound used to be real thick-like a.m.'s and being there's guitars and drums sounded awesome. But the crap sound on yankee hotel makes me want to puke. The sound of the guitars on yhft sound like they should be from some bad singer-songwriter in the '70's. Like cat stevens or jim croce I think?

Really? I'm a rather large fan of the sound on YHF. I think that both Chris Brickley and Jim O'Rourke did a fine job on the record.

Agreed on the second account. YHF has to be one of my favorite records ever. I love the sounds. Very natural...very real. Lately I am enjoying A Ghost Is Born quite a lot also. Does anybody have any insight on mic set-ups for this record. Especially drums? Was the overhead mono?

Thanks!

Jake

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [1gibsonMO](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 07:02:24 GMT
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Chris Walla anyone??? I think what he does with his own band has been pretty cool! (Indie... hmmm)

Fridman... Mogwai

A vote for Matt Goldman....

A side note, I just saw copeland last month and thought the vox were solid (minus 12 tracks or harmonies, but come on, they are not the polyphonic spree..... at least not live :p

ja

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [bloodstone](#) on Mon, 24 Apr 2006 10:44:20 GMT
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Don't know if he counts as "indie" anymore, but I think Flood does an incredible job.

Subject: Re: best "indie rock" engineer.....
Posted by [Espen Hvitløksdressing](#) on Mon, 08 May 2006 14:52:08 GMT
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I am not sure who produced it, but Operatic's "Killing Us Is Easy" sounds really good to me.
