# MIC PLACEMENT
# CHEAT SHEET

IT PAYS OFF TO MOVE MICS AROUND AND EXPERIMENT UNTIL YOU FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE. I'D SUGGEST YOU ALWAYS DO THAT BECAUSE IT JUST MAKES SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE! HOWEVER, THESE TIPS SHOULD SERVE AS A GREAT STARTING POINT TO GET YOU THERE FASTER.

| SOURCE | PLACEMENT TIPS |
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| Kick Drum | Inside kick: Closer to batter head -> more attack ("click"). Closer to resonant head -> less "attack", more "body". Outside kick: "Full", "round", natural sound. No "click" from beater. Try combining the two, if you can. |
| Snare Drum | Point away from hihats! Closer to head -> more body. Further away -> more balanced/open, but also more cymbals. Closer to center -> More stick attack. Closer to rim/shell: More overtones |
| Toms | Point away from cymbals! Basically same as snare. Try to point the mic straight down (very steep angle) at the head for maximum attack and clarity). A flat angle softens the attack. |
| Overheads | Imagine a line through kick & snare and think of it as middle axis of kit. Place mics equidistant from that line to keep kick & snare centered. Listen & turn/move mics more towards cymbals or shells until it sounds balanced. |
| Room Mics | Walk around, listen and find the spots with the most energy/vibe. Place mics there. You can do mono or stereo. It's more about vibe than technical perfection. Pointing mics away from kit can make the room sound bigger. |
| Guitars | Record DI & mic simultaneously. Mic: Closer to cab -> more low end. Closer to center of cone: more highs, can get harsh. Closer to edge of cone: "warmer", more low end. Great starting point: Where dust cap meets cone. |
| Bass | Record DI & mic simultaneously. Mic: Closer to cab -> more low end. Closer to center of speaker cone: more highs, pick/finger sounds. Closer to edge: warm, full, less direct, more low end. Great starting point: Dead center. |
| Vocals | Closer to mic -> More low end. Straight into mic -> direct and aggressive. Slightly angle to tame the "s". Mic lower, pointing up: More "air"/highs and top end articulation. Mic higher, pointing down: More "nose"/mids. |