



The Female DIY Musician Presents

# 10 **FREE** TOOLS TO START RECORDING YOUR MUSIC **NOW**

# RECORDING YOUR MUSIC DOESN'T HAVE TO **BREAK THE BANK**



Way back **when I was first thinking about recording my music, I remember feeling overwhelmed** by the potential cost of investing in studio time or fancy equipment. Thankfully, now there are so many free (or nearly free) recording tools to get you started. But it can be time consuming and confusing searching through all the options out there on the web.

If that sounds familiar, **this guide is for you**. You'll find an easy to understand and organised list of free options that will truly enable you to start recording your music, right now.

**Let's get started!**

# FREE DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATIONS

A DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) is the hub of any recording project. Inside this software you'll be able to record, edit and mix your music. Here are three great free options that will enable you to get started with recording, right now.

01

## PRO TOOLS FIRST

Since its inception back in the early 1990's, Pro Tools quickly became the industry standard DAW for professional recording studios. It was also, rather pricey!

Thankfully, though, Pro Tools have now introduced their free version, Pro Tools First. While this is a lighter version, there is still more than enough included to make great recordings of your music.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

02

## GARAGEBAND

Garageband is another great free DAW option, although it's only compatible with Mac computers. If that's your bag, you'll be happy to find a bunch of presets and instruments included to bring your songs to life.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

03

## AUDACITY

Now, I must admit, this isn't my favourite option on the list, but Audacity is, never-the-less, worth considering. It is a totally free, stand alone DAW and it does have everything you might need to get started.

However, I find it much less intuitive than options 1 & 2. But some people love it, and that might just be you.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)



# FREE PLUG-INS

You'll find lots of 'plug-ins' inside your DAW, which will enable you to apply effects (and more) to your recordings. But here are a couple of free options you can download to further enhance your set up.

04

## TAL VOCODER

Fancy getting that cool, computerised Imogen Heap sounding effect on your own vocals? Look no further than Tal Vocoder - a free plug-in that emulates the sound of vocoders from the early 80's.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

05

## SURGE SYNTHESISER

Now, this one's for all the audiophiles out there; the Surge synth plugin is a powerful sound machine. I will issue a disclaimer though: it's got lots of digital buttons and sliders, so ease yourself in gently if that kind of thing freaks you out (welcome to the club BTW).

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)





# FREE SAMPLING OPTIONS

Found sounds can truly enhance your music and be so much fun to play with. Here's two free ways to incorporate some interesting sonic textures into your recordings.



06

## FREE SOUND

I love using this website to find interesting recordings of anything from birdsong to a steamtrain. I promise, hours will go by looking through the vast collection of totally free sounds, ready for you to sample in your own recordings.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

07

## SOUND FLOWER

Soundflower is a free piece of software you can download that enables you to record your computer's audio. Never miss a sonic texture you've found online again - capture it in Soundflower and use it in your music!

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

# APPS FOR RECORDING ON YOUR PHONE

Smart phones have become so smart, you can even record a whole album on one now. But here, I'm also sharing apps that transform your phone into a pro microphone or a banging beats machine - and yes, for free...

08

## GARAGE BAND IOS

Like the idea of using a DAW but would rather start on something a little more familiar? The Garageband app for iOS is a great place to start. Turn your iPhone and iPad into a fully functioning all-in-one studio with touch instruments at your fingertips.

Whereever you are, you can make music with the touch of a few buttons.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

09

## EASY VOICE RECORDER

Want to record your voice but aren't ready to invest in a microphone just yet? Introducing the Easy Voice Recorder for Android or iOS. Record anywhere at higher quality than your phone's inbuilt app and save your files straight to iCloud.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

10

## RØDE REPORTER

Like the Easy Voice Recorder, the RØDE Reporter app gives you the capability to record your voice in high quality from your phone, but this one's for the iOS gals - sorry!

A wonderful option for one-the-go ideas as well as making pro recordings of your songs, this app is definitely worth checking out. Oh, and it's free!

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)



# BONUS TOOLS TO LEVEL UP FOR UNDER £50



I can't leave it there without giving you a couple of bonus options in case you want to **level up and enhance the 10 free tools I've already shared** in this PDF.

On the next page, you'll find five pieces of software or kit that are all under £50, helping you to level up your set-up without breaking the bank.

**Think of it as a little gift** to help you grow and develop your recording skills and get your music out there with the world.

## CONDENSER MIC

£49

If you're enjoying working inside a DAW but want better audio recordings to work with, a condenser microphone.

These mics will pick up more detail and texture and now come in very budget friendly options, such as the popular Fifine K669 USB Condenser.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

## RØDE VIDEOMIC ME

£49

If you'd like to enhance your phone's recording abilities, you might want to consider levelling up with the RØDE VideoMic Me Directional Microphone.

Designed to simply plug into your phone (iPhone's will need an adapter), you'll be accurately capturing high-quality recordings wherever you are.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

## SERAMONIC MINI MIC

£20

An even cheaper alternative to the RØDE VideoMic Me, this is a great 2nd option for making better recordings with your phone.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

## KORG KAossilator

Available for both Android and iOS, this is a powerful synthesiser app that enables you to play with a wide range of electronic and acoustic sounds, much like Korg's very popular Kaossilator pedal.

You also get a sequencer included that will enable you to create tracks by recording and layering your performances.

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)

## MOOG FILTRATION

£5

Another budget friendly app is the Moog Filtration. Import any song into the original Filtration inspired controller and start playing with those classic Moog warm, thick textures.

filter modulation, delay, and overdrive to create your own sounds and then incorporate these into your recordings. Oh, and it has some really nice vintage graphics to enhance your Moog experience too!

[CHECK IT OUT HERE >>](#)





# HI, I'M ISOBEL

*I help female identifying musicians, like you, start recording and sharing their music.*



I know that there are so many talented womxn in music out there that just haven't found a way to get their music out. Maybe you've found that studio time is a luxury you just can't afford and that, like many female musicians, this kind of environment feels a little intimidating anyway.

As a [DIY musician myself](#), I know how tough it can feel to even get started, let alone create any momentum as an artist. But after self-producing and self-releasing four albums with over [25 million Spotify streams](#) and achieving a PhD in Sonic Arts, I know a thing or two about carving out a sound and career you can be proud of and I could never have

done just that without learning even the basics of home-recording. But getting those skills wasn't easy.

That's why in 2018 I started [The Female DIY Musician](#) to help other womxn to grow their confidence with home-recording. I'm passionate about creating inclusive, supportive online communities where womxn can learn without judgement or unnecessary pressure. Whether it's through teaching music production in some of London's leading music industry colleges or to the multiple female musicians inside my online learning communities, I love seeing my students' transformation everyday.

I truly believe that when female musicians have the right resources, exceptional support and a thriving community we can record and produce amazing music, and that will mean more womxn in music.

I'd love to help you to do the same.

Isobel x

# LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

*I'm so glad you've downloaded this PDF guide and I can't wait to share more resources and opportunities to learn with me moving forward.*

## IN THE MEANTIME, HERE'S SOME GREAT WAYS WE CAN **STAY CONNECTED**

- Listen to the [Girls Twiddling Nobs podcast](#), where I share tips on recording and sharing your music as well as guest episodes with womxn smashing it with music-tech.
- Say hello on the 'gram at [@femdiymusician](#)
- Join the hundreds of other womxn in music in my free facebook group [The Female DIY Musician Tribe >>](#)
- Add [info@femalediymusician.com](mailto:info@femalediymusician.com) to your email's contacts and look out for more amazing resources coming your way.

*Know a fellow female musician who would love this free guide?*

**[SHARE THE LOVE >>](#)**