

Home Brass Recording Checklist

Use this as a quick-reference setup guide before every session



Microphone & Placement

- ☐ Select appropriate mic (AT2020 / MD 421 II / Royer R-121)
- ☐ Connect mic to audio interface (use phantom power if needed)
- ☐ If using a ribbon mic, add inline preamp (e.g., Cloudlifter)
- ☐ Position mic 2–4 feet from bell
- ☐ Angle mic 15–30° off-axis
- ☐ Adjust height based on desired tone (rim / above / below)
- ☐ Treat room (curtains, panels, furniture) to reduce reflections



Monitoring

- ☐ Use closed-back headphones for isolation
- ☐ Add light reverb to monitoring bus (not printed)
- ☐ Check for latency or any monitoring delay



Recording

- ☐ Record *dry* (no EQ, compression, reverb applied)
- ☐ Double-check mic phase if using multiple mics
- ☐ Record multiple short takes for comparison



DAW & Interface Setup

- ☐ Launch DAW (Logic, Pro Tools, Reaper, etc.)
- ☐ Select correct input channel
- ☐ Set sample rate to 48kHz and bit depth to 24-bit
- ☐ Activate phantom power if using condenser mic
- ☐ Use direct monitoring to reduce latency
- ☐ Set input gain so peaks hit ~ -6 dBFS
- ☐ Test with a short take and adjust as needed



Post-Production

- ☐ Apply high-pass filter at 80–100 Hz
- ☐ Tame harshness (cut 2–4 kHz) if needed
- ☐ Add air (boost 8–10 kHz) subtly
- ☐ Use light compression (2:1 ratio, 3–5 dB GR)
- ☐ Add tasteful reverb (room, hall, or plate)
- ☐ Check and correct phase alignment on multi-mic tracks
- ☐ Export mix in appropriate format (WAV, AIFF, etc.)