



Adam demonstrates how he works in Logic Pro

to a professional of Parsons' stature. Although he's a self-taught composer and recordist, he didn't flinch in the face of any of Parsons' questions and responded with confidence and accuracy. There's a confidence present in Adam that shows that even if he's not sure that the way he creates is technically correct, he knows that it sounds good, and that's what really matters.

As Fazel explained how he records by feel—watching the scene he's scoring as he lays down tracks—Parsons saw an opportunity to educate. "In the old days, before computers started dominating our lives, you used to choose a tempo based on certain points in the film, hitting certain downbeats. There's software to do that now, where you can actually map it out so that at the third beat of the seventh bar, the guy shuts the car door or whatever. Maybe we'll investigate that too." Fazel agreed intently.

Parsons sized up the room quickly, as one might expect. He did after all run the massive, legendary EMI console at Abbey Road Studios for *Dark Side of the Moon* (among other albums), which probably wouldn't even fit in Fazel's tiny bedroom. At Parsons' request, Fazel cued up a clip he composed for an action sequence in a short film. Even through his MacBook Pro's tiny speakers, Adam's talent for composition and production was apparent. And despite his modest setup, Fazel's optimism about recording also shone through.

"I'm realistic. I know this is a very humble setup, but I don't let that suppress my creativity. I just try to make it so that the listener thinks I have a live orchestra at my disposal," he told Parsons.

"Well, it's true. That's why I selected you, because your studio is so humble in its makeup, and I was amazed when I heard the piece," said Parsons.

Fazel decided then and there to ask a question that was clearly burning up his mind.

"So, you listened to it ... and you liked it?"

"Yeah, very much."

"That's incredible! For someone like you—Alan Parsons—to say you like it, that really means so much."

Those three words from Parsons clearly meant a great deal to Fazel. Although self-assured in his work, he would explain later that because he never had formal training, he couldn't ever be 100% sure that he was doing things right, regardless of how good the final product sounded. He had met so-called professionals who were quick to tell him, "You can't do it that way" when he would explain how he built his compositions layer by layer. But he had learned that you could, in fact, do it that way. And when Alan Parsons tells you you've done a good job recording a piece of music, there's no argument to be had.

Over the course of an hour, Parsons gave Fazel a number of options for spending his \$5,000, which you can see detailed in the sidebar to the right along with Adam's pre-makeover setup.

When asked how the experience would affect his life going forward, Fazel stayed true to form as someone who is living out his dream of making a living—however modest—through making music. "I hope with the knowledge I got from Alan and the gear from Musicians' Friend, I can enhance the quality of my work. And to have Alan Parsons say my work is good, I hope that for the business side of things that gives me credibility. I'm very grateful for this whole experience."

Go online to musiciansfriend.com/cover to watch the behind-the-scenes video of the Alan Parsons Studio Makeover. To learn more about Adam Fazel and hear samples of his work visit adamfazel.com.

ALAN'S HOME STUDIO ESSENTIALS

Alan Parsons was impressed with what Adam was able to create with his modest setup, built around an aging 2.4GHz dual-core MacBook Pro, Logic Pro 9, Reason 4, an M-Audio Axiom 61 MIDI keyboard, and a pair of Sennheiser HD 201 headphones. Alan recommended the following gear, with the \$5000 allowance in mind, to beef up Adam's setup:

1. Apple Macbook Pro 15.4"

Quad-core Intel i7 processor
H79482 - \$1799

2. Yamaha MOTIF XF6 61-Key Music Production Synth

Powerful, standard-setting keyboard workstation.
H64308 - \$2399.99

3. Apogee Duet 2 USB Interface

Studio-quality sound in a versatile interface.
H72945 - \$595

4. KRK Rokit Powered 8 Generation 2 Studio Monitors

Glass-aramid cone technology and incredible accuracy.
482827 - \$249.50 each

5. Line 6 POD HD Desktop Multi-Effects Processor

Amazing HD guitar modeling perfect for home studios.
H72932 - \$399.99

You Can Learn From Alan Too!

Alan Parsons Presents The Art And Science Of Sound Recording (DVD Set)

10 hours of recording education from one of the most celebrated producers of our time.
H72690 - \$134.10



Watch the Behind-the-scenes interview with Adam and Alan now by scanning the Microsoft TAG below.

