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You can do this in your bedroom. I've heard absolutely disgusting shit come out of high-end studios, and I've heard some amazing shit come off some little kid's laptop in LA.

— *deadmau5*

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CHAPTER RECAP

With digital audio technology being what it is today, the idea that you need expensive studio equipment to make professional sounding EDM no longer applies. You do need a computer to record your music on and a DAW to work in. Ideally, you'd also have a piece of hardware to help your computer process audio (a digital audio converter or DAC) and a pair of monitor speakers to help you hear what you're making in greater detail.

TAKE IT FURTHER

- ▶ Joel says different DAWs can teach you different things about how to route and process your audio. You can find free trial versions of most DAWs online. Here are a few links to get you started:
 - ▼ [Ableton Live](#) (Joel will be teaching using Ableton)
 - ▼ [FL Studio](#)
 - ▼ [Cubase](#)
- ▶ Even if you've already got a favorite, download a few others and familiarize yourself with how they work. Is the DAW you've been using really the best DAW for you?
- ▶ Listen to Skrillex's album [Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites](#), and remind yourself how much a producer can do with just a laptop.

SUBCHAPTERS

- ▶ Everything Ends Up Digital
- ▶ Your Computer Setup
- ▶ DAWs
- ▶ Hardware Can Come Later
- ▶ No Headphones
- ▶ Studio Monitors
- ▶ It's About Your Ideas Not Your Gear

NOTES

ASSIGNMENT

- Whether you're in the market for new gear or not, you should stay current with what's available and train your ear to hear the subtleties of different equipment. Most music stores like Guitar Center and Sam Ash have dedicated rooms where you can listen to all different types of monitor speakers. Take a trip and familiarize your ears with the ways different speakers can shape the sound of a track. If you already own a pair of speakers, figure out how they might be changing the way your tracks sound and how you can compensate for those changes when you're producing.

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