

MAXIM

STUFF TECH

BAND IN A BEDROOM

Grab this new digital music making gear and lay down hot tracks in your crib. Up yours, Abbey Road!

1 The Drum Kit

Yep, this looks like your set from *Rock Band*. But mastering these may actually help you get girls. The **Roland HD-1** is a ridiculously cool, compact digital drum kit that allows you to choose from different setups. A mixable external input (plug your iPod in) will allow you to play along with 1998's greatest hits, forever. \$999, rolandus.com

2 The Keyboard

The supersmall **M-Audio Axiom 25** USB-interfacing MIDI controller may look like a mini-me keyboard, but it's got semi-weighted keys, trigger pads, and assignable knobs usually found on big-boy sequencers. A compact footprint makes it great for desktops, and the lightweight body is more road-ready than your van. \$240, m-audio.com

3 The Mixer

The **Sony Cross Fade** miniaturizes a superclub DJ booth and sets it up in your sitting room. It's got a built-in two-channel mixer, cross-fader, and monitor queue that enables clean DJ-style mixing off of two iPods. It supports turntable computer playback via USB, so you can mix your new track into the playlist and see if your jam can hang with Nelly's. \$500, sonystyle.com

4 The Headphones

You may think you're recording the club banger of all time, but that doesn't mean your neighbors agree. Clamp on the noise-canceling **Beats by Dr. Dre** headphones and get big sound without getting evicted. Dre himself puttered their sound after the light, bass-heavy mix he likes to smoke spittin' to in the studio. \$350, beatsbydre.com

5 The Guitar

Inside the metallic platinum **First Act VEGG** guitar beats the heart of the home recorder. A built-in preamp allows you to plug directly into a home stereo, computer console, or mixing board. Flick a switch and this basswood solid-body can plug into any amp in any 1970 hall or state fair that's here you. \$300, firstact.com

6 The Mic

The **Samson G-Track** desktop mic records vocals and a guitar simultaneously via a line-in. All you need is a laptop and a dream to be the next YouTube singing star. And a prettier face. \$159, samson-tech.com—Mike Errico