



OCTAVE STUDIOS
M E D H A T

Tips For New Bands

Over the past 8 years I have been spending my time not only working on my skills as an audio engineer. I have also been spending a good chunk of that time playing gigs with bands as well as putting on shows for other bands in my area. Throughout that time I have had to learn some hard lessons, and I have watched some good friends and bands have to do the same. As we are in the tail end of 2018 and moving into 2019 it is time to recognize that we are not a part of the scene of old. The things we heard stories about on Much Music, VH1, MTV, and band biographies as kids and teenagers growing up do not happen anymore. Things have changed drastically for bands and how we need to go about promoting ourselves and building hype around our projects has changed as well. Below is a list of Do's and Don'ts that I feel would have been very helpful for myself as a musician in a new band. Now not all of these tips will work for everyone, just as all the suggestions on what not to do may not be right for your band. These are just things that I want to share out of personal experience to help other bands maintain a positive mindset when going out to make a name for themselves.

DONT

Before You

DO

-Focus on "Making it Big"

-Focus on playing shows

-Worry about high end gear

- Play multiple local shows

- Focus on recording

-Focus on recording yourself

- Focus on touring

- Waste money on advertisement

- Focus on recording an album

- Focus on creating a following that is connecting with your music & constantly growing

- Focus on creating a solid set & performance (It's better to blow people away from the start, than to start out meh and slowly improve)

- Until you have a severe need for it (Flashy expensive gear is not nearly as important as good songs played well)

-Have enough material to make each set a little different from the last (Test out different combinations of songs every set)

- Focus on getting one or two of your best songs tighter than the rest

- Look at all of your available options in your area. There is bound to be one person out there that is affordable that can help you and eliminate a lot of stress.

- Focus on playing in a few cities and venues in your local area and region.

- Focus on creating content that will draw your audience in.

- Focus on creating your following, writing good songs, and playing numerous shows in your region



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If you are unsure about how to simplify the DON'Ts and the DO's, here is a 6 point list that you can look over for yourself to see if the mindset is right for you and what you want to do.

Try to focus on...

1. Writing lots of material
2. Playing local shows in your city & nearby cities
3. Going out to shows you are not playing, meeting new venue owners, promoters, bands, and show goers (support your scene and your scene will support you)
4. Getting one or two songs tight for recording
5. Creating a brand for your band (ex. a logo that stands out and identifies with your music)
6. Being a genuine person and band, and know that how you treat those around you will reflect on your band.

**Important* Remember... The actions of one member represents the entire band. Act as professional as you can, and you will go far. Don't be a diva.*