CASE STUDIES

PRIVATE STUDIO INSTALLATION WITH SSL ORIGIN 16

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project focused on transforming a double garage into a private recording studio, meticulously designed to meet the client's exacting standards for a clean, efficient, and highly functional workspace. Central to this transformation was the integration of an SSL Origin 16 console, a significant upgrade to the client's setup.

Troy Kelly, Director of Sounds Too Loud Audio, and a specialist in bespoke pro audio solutions, has been a trusted SSL dealer in New Zealand for over a decade. Throughout his career, Troy has worked closely with both professionals and enthusiasts, delivering customised audio environments tailored to their specific needs.

For this project, the seamless integration of the client's existing outboard gear with the new SSL console was paramount. The design not only needed to achieve technical excellence but also foster an intuitive workflow, allowing the client to focus on their creative process without being bogged down by technical complexities.

Working closely with Troy Kelly and STL Audio, the official SSL dealer in New Zealand, Sounds Too Loud Audio meticulously planned and executed every detail of the studio design. Their goal was to create a space that exemplifies high-performance audio capability, combined with a polished, professional aesthetic, ensuring the client could realise their recording ambitions with ease and precision.

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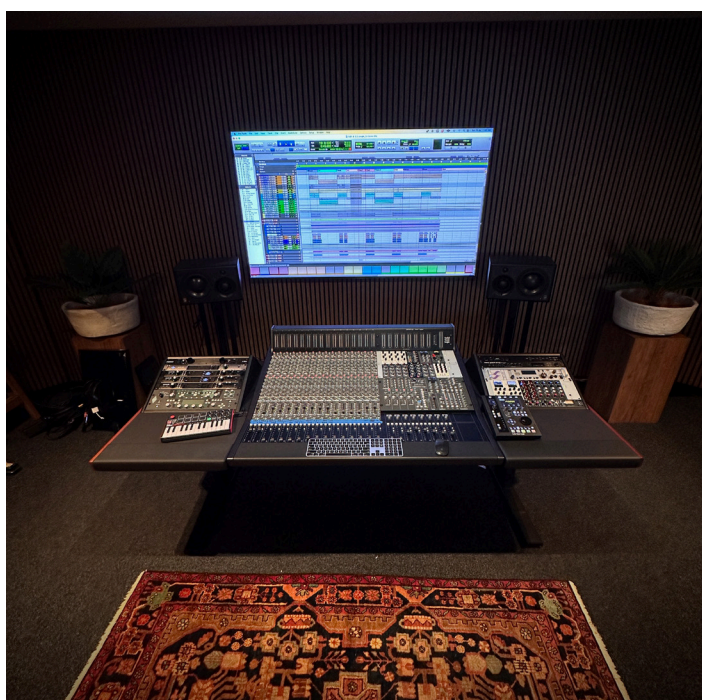## INITIAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The primary requirement was to install the SSL Origin 16 console and integrate it with the client's existing outboard equipment. The client emphasised the need for a "perfect mix" layout, eliminating the need for a patchbay by carefully configuring the hardware in a static setup that allowed instant access to all 32 inserts. Given that the client already owned two SSL consoles, familiarity with the brand's workflow and sound was crucial to the project.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Clean Installation: The studio design demanded a visually clean installation, with no visible cables. This was particularly challenging given the limited space of a double garage.

Perfect Mix Layout: The hardware configuration was to be meticulously planned, with a focus on a static mix layout. This required normalising the outboard gear to all 32 inserts on the SSL Origin 16, ensuring that the studio was always ready for mixing without the need for reconfiguration

Space Management: Given the compact nature of the double garage, efficient use of space was paramount. All cables and connections had to be neatly concealed, without compromising accessibility or functionality.

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PRODUCT SELECTION

The SSL Origin 16 was chosen after the client attended the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) exhibition, where they received a detailed demonstration. The console's features, sound quality, and ergonomic design made it an easy decision. The choice was further reinforced by the client's prior experience with SSL products, which provided confidence in the console's ability to meet the project's high standards.

UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT

Space Constraints: Converting a double garage into a fully functional studio presented unique challenges, particularly in terms of space management. Trunks were utilised to conceal all multicore cables, ensuring that the limited space was used efficiently without compromising the studio's aesthetic or functionality.

No Patchbay Design: Opting out of using a patchbay was a significant design choice. Instead, the studio was configured to allow a static layout, with all outboard gear hardwired to specific inserts on the SSL Origin 16. This approach streamlined the workflow and minimised the need for manual patching, aligning with the client's desire for a ready-to-mix environment.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

The client reported a highly positive experience, noting that "Using the SSL is a dream, huge SSL console sound!" The combination of the SSL Origin 16 and the carefully integrated outboard gear resulted in a studio environment that not only met but exceeded the client's expectations.

CONCLUSION

This project successfully transformed a limited space into a high-functioning private studio, delivering on the client's vision for a clean, efficient, and sonically superior environment. The SSL Origin 16 proved to be the ideal centerpiece, offering the flexibility, sound quality, and reliability needed for professional-grade production in a compact studio setup.

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