

UNITED KINGDOM

# The taste of summer

Phil Croft's West Midlands studio hideaway has been built with much sweat and toil, but also with love – a fact which has just been recognised by the Miloco Group, writes **Dave Robinson**

SUMMERFIELD STUDIOS in Birmingham has become the first facility in the West Midlands to partner up with the Miloco Studio Group.

Built from the ground up by owner Phil Croft, the studio reflects Croft's vision to "create

Summerfield's live room features a 48sqm fully-floating French pine floor, natural daylight and a drum riser. The attention paid to décor, lighting and furniture is immediately evident.

Located on the eastern outskirts of Birmingham (just

"Summerfield is my mother's surname," says Croft, "and she inspired me to get through and finish the project with her positivity, hence the name." ■

[www.miloco.co.uk](http://www.miloco.co.uk)  
[www.summerfieldrecordingstudios.co.uk](http://www.summerfieldrecordingstudios.co.uk)



NEW ORDER'S Bernard Sumner (left) has purchased three pairs of Unity Audio Rock MK IIs and

Avalanche subwo... including a pair f... Stephen Morris... monitors are bei... forthcoming alb... soon. "I was look... speakers that di... my ears during l... with the ribbon t... found this in the... Rock MK II," said... "I've used a lo... monitors but the... something very s... will improve you... recordings and w... really translates well... world environment,"... [www.unityaudiopro](http://www.unityaudiopro)



The live room



Soundtracs Jade in the control room

a comfortable and creative atmosphere, combined with excellent acoustic quality and an ever-growing selection of great equipment" and is his interpretation of the publication *Recording Studio Design* by acclaimed acoustician Philip Newell. In keeping with Newell's strict approach to the subject, the studio and control room have "excellent isolation and inter-room visibility", says Croft.

The control room is centred around a Soundtracs Jade 48/96 inline production console, with Tannoy FSM flush mounted main monitors, PBM 8 closefield monitors and System 800 dual concentrics. Logic Pro X running on a Mac Pro is the current DAW of choice, though Croft confirms that Pro Tools is in the pipeline. Waves, PSP and UA plugs (running on a UAD2-Duo card) are in plentiful supply. Chief engineer is Dan Coley.

off Junction 5 of the M6, in fact) it is at the heart of the UK's major transport routes, making it not only ideal for Birmingham-based artists, but placing it within an acceptable travelling distance for bands and producers from other cities too.

Croft may be a driver by trade, but is himself a driven man. His hobby almost became an obsession, as he privately educated himself in acoustics and engineering for several years, achieving an HND in Professional Sound Engineering in 2000.

Croft spent over six years building the studio, and not without incident: he was nearly decapitated by falling steel plates after falling from scaffolding halfway through the build.

However, his perseverance has culminated in a facility that Newell himself has called a "remarkable achievement".

We're thinking sm

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