



# Room with a VU

by Salvatore Russo

**STUDIO NAME:** Shorefire Recording Studio  
**LOCATION:** Long Branch, NJ  
**KEY CREW:** Joseph DeMaio  
**CONSOLE:** Helios Type 79 (40 input x 32 buss x 32 monitor)  
**RECORDERS:** Ampex 351 1/4" 2-track, Digidesign Pro Tools Mix 24 Plus (1 x Core, 6 x Farm), Apogee AD8000se, Digidesign 888/24 x 3, Digidesign Universal Slave Driver, MCI JH 24 2" 24-track w/AL III, Sony APR 5002 1/2" 2-track, TASCAM DA-30 DAT, TASCAM 122 MKIII Cassette  
**MONITORS:** Advent AV570, Aurotone S-L, JBL 4433 w/White 4865 graphic EQ and Bryston 4B amplifier, Mackie HR824, Yamaha NS-10m  
**EFFECTS:** AMS RMX-16, Antares ATR-1, Binson Echorec Baby, Echoplex III Plate, EMT 140 Plate, Eventide H3000 x 2, Eventide Instant Flanger, Eventide Instant Phaser, Lexicon 224xl, Lexicon PCM 42 x 2, Lexicon PCM 70 x 2, Lexicon PCM 81, Lexicon Primetime II, Marshall 5002, Orban IIIB Spring, Roland SDE 3000 x 2, Roland SRE-555, Yamaha SPX90II x 2  
**OUTBOARD:** ADR Compex F760, Altec 436c x 2, API 525a x 2, API 550a x 2, API 560b x 2, Ashly SC-50, dbx 902 x 2, dbx 160xt x 2, Drawmer DS201 x 2, Eventide Omnipressor x 2, Evil Twin D.I., GML 8200, ITI MEP-230, Lang PEQ-2, Little Labs PCP Distro, Neve 33609, Pultec EQP-1A3 x 4, Pultec MEQ-5 x 2, RCA BA-6A, Retrospec Juicebox D.I., SSL G384, Teletronix LA-2A, Urei LA-3A x 2, Urei LA-4 x 2, Urei 1176 x 3, Urei 1178, Urei 565t, Valley People Kepex I x 2  
**MIC PREAMPS:** API 512b x 2, Focusrite ISA-215 Dual, Helios type 69 x 6 (original), Neve 1066 x 2, 1073 x 2, 1084 x 2, 1091 x 2, RCA BA-1A x 2, Telefunken V72 x 4, V72a x 4, Trident A-Range x 2 (original)  
**MICS:** Altec 639a, Altec 165a, AKG C12, AKG C12a x 2, AKG D12e, AKG D20, AKG D30, AKG D36, AKG D112, AKG C414 x 4, AKG C451 x 4, AKG C452, Beyerdynamic M88n x 2, Beyerdynamic M160 x 2, Beyerdynamic M201, Coles 4038, Crown PZM CS x 2, EV RE 20 x 2, EV 665, EV 666, Neumann U47feti, Neumann U47, Neumann M49, Neumann U67 x 2, Neumann U87 x 2, Neumann KM54, Neumann KM84i x 2, RCA 44BX, RCA 77DX, Royer R-121 x 2, Sennheiser MKH 416 p48 x 2, Sennheiser MD 409U3, Sennheiser MD 421 x 8, Sennheiser MD 441 x 2, Shure 55s, Shure SM56, Shure SM57 x 6, Shure SM58 x 2, Shure SM61, Shure SM81 x 2, Shure Beta87a

**COMPUTERS:** Mac G4 933MHz, 1280MB RAM

**BAND ACTION:** Accept, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Bernie Worrell, Deborah Harry and Blondie, Marshall Crenshaw, Monster Magnet, Overkill, Skid Row, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, Zakk Wylde

**STUDIO NOTES:** When people think Jersey, first thought that comes to mind is urban blight, crooked politicians and Sanitation Companies run by guys wearing silk warm up suits and gold pinky rings. The Jersey I remember, however, is the beautiful Jersey Shore. Growing up in South Philadelphia my parents owned a summer home in the picturesque Oceanside town of Margate, New Jersey. Just north of Margate you'd find Atlantic City and if you were to travel just a little further north on the Garden State Parkway, just off exit 109, you will find Long Branch, New Jersey. This is the home of Shorefire Recording Studios, and Shorefire's been the temporary home to some of the biggest names in rock, having worked with the Boss and Bon Jovi, and so when these guys list their credits there's not a puzzled look in the room: impressed always, envious sometimes, but puzzled? Never.

When asked about the signature Shorefire "sound," Joe DeMaio tells us, "Here at Shorefire we blend the best of the old with all of the latest to form a happy marriage of sonic ecstasy!" When asked HOW, he goes on to say, "The combination of our vintage mics and outboard play an important role in getting that sound, but the two most important things that make Shorefire so special is the classic Helios desk and the room. The Helios console (Type 79) was the last one ever made by Dick Swettenham for Townhouse Studios, London. Many great records from the late '70s and '80s were tracked and/or mixed on this desk. The console has 40 inputs, 32 bus, and 32-monitor section with fully sweepable 4-band active equalizers, considered by many to be the most versatile EQ Helios ever made. The sound of the desk is clean and warm but the top end is just amazing. The top frequency is 18k and you can boost fully without it collapsing or sounding shrill. Open, creamy, and silky is how I like to describe it. Certainly there are not many Helios consoles in the USA and we are very proud that 'Big Brownie' resides here."

A blend of the old and the new to create a sound that can be described as open, creamy, and silky? Oh yeah. Definitely Shorefire. **EQ**

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