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Subject: Recording Banjo/Cumbus

Posted by [LizardBat](#) on Wed, 24 Aug 2011 13:17:23 GMT

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I need to record a cumbus (sort of a Turkish banjo) and I only have one channel in which to do it. Is it better to try and run a contact pick up off the resonator or take a closely placed omni mic?

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Subject: Re: Recording Banjo/Cumbus

Posted by [Thermionic](#) on Mon, 05 Sep 2011 17:40:20 GMT

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Howdy LizardBat,

I'd say with near certainty you'd get a better sound with the omni mic. If I was recording in a small or sound-treated room, I'd initially try fairly close placement, at somewhere around the neck joint area. Then, I'd move the mic a little at a time towards the bridge and compare the results after each movement.

But, if I had access to a large room with favorable natural reverb characteristics, I'd milk it for all it's worth. I'd use the omni mic placed a bit farther away, to capture some of the natural room ambience.

If the room is too bright, you damp the highest frequencies with strategically placed blankets draped over a makeshift frame. Rolling wardrobe racks are my favorite, but an improvised frame made from PVC pipe is just the ticket if you don't have access to wardrobe racks.

Thermionic

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