#ROUNDYOURHOUSE

Roundhouse Home Studios

Free Adobe Creative Cloud, resources kit and support for 11-25s to make creative work from home.

There's nothing like the buzz of being in the Roundhouse Studios, and we can't wait to welcome you back when this is all over.

In the meantime, our team of experts in the Roundhouse Studios Tech Store have put together a package including free access to Adobe Creative Cloud for all of our members.
Check out this handy guide to the free software available, that will help you to create music, podcasts and videos from home.

We'd love to see what you've been creating in lockdown. Share your creations with us at #RoundYourHouse on social media so we can see!

Please note: all the software in this list has been tried and tested by the Roundhouse Studios Tech team, and should not do anything harmful to your computer; however, as all of this software has been developed by third parties that we are not in any way affiliated with, we ask you to please take caution when downloading software from the internet.

To ensure that your computer will still run efficiently with your new software, it is important to read the developer's advice before downloading to be sure that you have enough storage space available on your hard disk, and make sure your computer has sufficient RAM capacity to run the program without issues.

If you require any technical advice when you're making creative work from home – perhaps some software isn't working as you'd expect, or you're having trouble using any of your equipment, send us an email: rhstech.support@roundhouse.org.uk.

A member of the studios tech team will be monitoring this inbox Monday – Friday 10am-6pm, to respond to your queries, and to offer help and advice with your home studio set ups.

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Adobe Creative Cloud
Roundhouse Studios are eligible to make use of Adobe's scheme to enable temporary at-home access to Creative Cloud available until May 31, 2020. If this would be useful to you and you are a current studios member, please email rhstech.support@roundhouse.org.uk for further info.

AUDIO

Free DAWs

- **Audacity** is a free audio editing software, available for Windows, Mac OS, and Linux users. Audacity is a fantastic staple DAW for beginners and for simple audio editing purposes. It also features a huge number of built in effects plugins.

- **Reaper temporary license** - Reaper are offering a temporary license to use their software for anybody self-isolating or social distancing. To use, click this link and copy the text to your clipboard, then download Reaper. When you open Reaper, it will prompt you to use the license in your clipboard. Reaper is available for Windows and Mac OS, and an experimental version is available for Linux.

- **Mixpad** is a DAW made by NCH for Windows and Mac OS users, intended for non-commercial home use only. It is really, really, easy to use and has some great tutorials to help you get started.

- **Tracktion Waveform Free** is a free version of Waveform PRO, available on Mac OS, Windows and Ubuntu. You have to make an account to download this software. Tracktion have also made a number of video tutorials to help you get set up.

- **Studio One Prime** is a free version of Studio One Artist/Professional made by PreSonus, that comes with Native Effects plugins, and several free instrumental loops. You have to make an account to download this software.

- **Garageband** is a software developed by Apple, and is available to Mac OS users only. In many ways, Garageband is basically a simpler version of Logic Pro, so if you're familiar with using Logic in the studios then you will find Garageband an easy-to-use alternative.

Free VSTs/AUs and plugins

Spitfire Audio LABS
We recommend taking a look at the huge range of free virtual instruments created by Spitfire Audio available to download from their website. With everything from trumpets and string quartets to atmospheric pads, the LABS virtual instruments are a fantastic professional-standard resource available at no cost. You'll have to make a free account with Spitfire, then download the Spitfire Audio app (available for Mac OS and Windows) in order to download your new collection of VSTs.

Synth VST/AU

- **Surge** – available for Mac OS, Windows and Linux. This synth is open-sourced, and has loads of great information about its capabilities on the download page. With 1,010 factory patches you can make a huge variety of great sounds instantly, and experiment with the oscillators, filter blocks, modulation and effects units to customise your sound.

- **Dexed** by Digital Suburban – modelled on the Yamaha DX7, a classic 80s digital synth pioneered by Brian Eno, Phil Collins and Whitney Houston. Available as a standalone application or VST/AU within a DAW for Windows, Mac OS and Linux. Access 32 factory presets via the drop-down menu in the bottom left hand panel.

- **Synth1** by Ichiro Toda – modelled on the Clavia Nord Lead 2 Red synth, great for jazz/hip-hop/R&B style sounds.

- **Tyrell N6** – synth VST which has a wide selection of bass sounds.

- **4Front Piano** by Yohng is small single sound instrument without any settings that reproduces a timbre of an upgright home piano. It is available as VSTi for Windows, and as an AudioUnit, VSTi and RTAS for Mac.

- **Komplete Start** by Native Instruments - a curated selection of studio-quality instruments, effects, utilities, loops, and samples. Play over 2,000 customizable sounds – drums and percussion, bass, acoustic instruments, synths, pads and atmospheres, effects, and more.

You'll need to sign up to Native Instruments, and download the Native Access program to download the Komplete Start pack. Note that the instruments in the Komplete Start pack require you to work from the Komplete Kontrol software, and won't work as a plug in/software instrument on another DAW. You'll also need a MIDI keyboard to use these instruments.

Drum VST/AU

- **Drum PRO** – virtual drum machine available for Windows and Mac OS. This drum machine has a great selection of factory kits: take your Ultrabeat lines to the next level.

- **MT Power Drum Kit 2** – drum kit model and drum loop library available for Windows, Mac OS and Linux. The loop selection in this unit is astonishing, great if you're new to programming drums and want to add pre-programmed loops to your tracks.

- **Beat DRMR** – drum machine available for Windows and Mac OS. The selection of factory kits is *enormous*. If you've been looking for a certain drum sound but never managed to find it, you'll almost certainly find it amongst the 2,136 sounds Beat DRMR comes fully loaded with.

Melda free FX bundle
We recommend taking a look at the MFreeFXBundle, which contains 37 free effects plug ins. Our favourite pick of this bundle is the MAutoPitch, a fantastic automatic pitch correction plugin. You'll have to download the MAudio Installer, which once opened will allow you to download from the Melda plugins selection.

Izotope
Izotope have four free audio plugins that you can download from their website. The Ozone Imager and Visual Mixer are particularly useful tools when you're mixing your tracks, as they enable you to look at and listen to the stereo field in relation to your mix. Also, the Vinyl plug in is great for adding some vintage colour to your tracks.

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Soundtoys Effect Rack

Until 30 June Soundtoys have made their [Effects Rack free](#) for use. This allows you to use and create chains of 14 of their full-featured effects, all within a single plugin. Including delays, saturation, filtering and modulation effects, these all sound great and are very tweakable.

Other FX Plugins

- **TDR Nova** – a great little EQ and multi-band compressor unit from Tokyo Dawn Records.

- **TDR Proximity** – this plugin allows you to virtually adjust the proximity of the microphone to be closer or further away from the sound source.

- **DC1A** – a neat compressor plugin from Klanghelm. With only two controls (input and output), it is super easy to use.

- **Multiply** – chorus effect plugin from Acon Digital. With up to 6 additional voices, this plugin can be used to add some additional texture to your sounds, with integrated EQ and pre-delay to further customise your mix.

- **OldSkoolVerb** – reverb plugin from Voxengo, with presets for room, plate and hall.

- **Hysteresis** – glitch delay plugin from Glitch Machines, great for adding an alternative robotic twist to your sound.

- **MH Thump** - sign up to Metric Halo's mailing list and you can download their plug in Thump for free. This sub-harmonic synth processor will add sub-octave support to your audio files, making your bass and drums pop in the mix.

- **Softtube Saturation Knob** - this output distortion effect plug in is a great mixing tool for adding some grit to your sound. You will need to create an account with Softube in order to download the Saturation Knob.

Sample packs

- **Slooply** - sign up for free to Slooply and get access to their collection of free sample packs. Check out their pack #StayAtHome, which contains 51 loops to suit a number of different genres.

- **LANDR Samples** – Landr have an enormous selection of samples available to download from their Sample browser. Not all of them are free, and you can make a subscription account to access more. To get started, you can make a free account on their site, then go to their sample browser and search 'free' - or, check out this list of their best free samples.

DJ Software

- **Mixxx** – get started recording your own DJ mixes with this free open-sourced DJ software available for Windows, Mac OS and Linux.

- **VirtualDJ** – free for home use, and fully operational without the need for hardware (although of course you can also use a controller with it), VirtualDJ also has a video engine to enable you mix video content. Available for Windows or Mac OS.

Podcast Recording
Zencastr allows you to record remote interviews within your web browser, giving you separate downloadable audio files for each guest, for easy editing and mixing. During this period, they have enabled unlimited guests and unlimited recording time on their free accounts.

Also…
If there's something in particular you're looking for that we haven't mentioned here, check out http://www.dontcrack.com/freeware/ – where you can find a mind-boggling amount of free DAWs, plugins, VSTs, and much more.

VISUAL

Video Editing

- **iMovie** is free for Apple users; you can even begin edits on your iPhone/iPad and continue working on your Mac. Available on macOS/iOS only.
  Good for beginners

- **VSDC** is completely free, as are the how-to guides, but technical support and the user manual are paid for. They also offer free video and audio convertors. Available on Windows only. *Good for beginners*

- **Lightworks** is an all-round video editor; their website hosts a range of tutorials and a forum with thousands of useful topics. Capable of advanced post-production and has YouTube uploading built in. The free version is only capable of exporting MPEG-4 up to 720p though. A 7-day trial can be extended for free, by registering here; activate your license in Lightworks' system settings, button hidden in the top-right corner. Available on macOS, Windows, Linux.

- **HitFilm Express** requires a lot of processing power so check the specifications before you install. Aimed at creating professional grade films, but also has integrated YouTube uploading. A collection of useful resources can be found here. (Runs in demo mode until you create an account and activate the full version.) Free download available on macOS and Windows.

- **Shotcut** is an open-source program and no registration is required. It boasts a great selection of filters and effects - for a full list of features see here. It's regarded as having a slightly quirky interface, and a steep learning curve, but nevertheless is a capable editor. Available on macOS, Windows, Linux.

- **DaVinci Resolve 16** is a free to use all-round editing suite which is particularly useful for its professional-level colour grading.
  (You will need to register an email address and contact number to access the download file. Available on macOS, Windows, Linux.

Animation/Image-Editing

- **Blender is an open-source** editor primarily built for 3D animation and geared towards advanced users/projects. The included video editor is more basic and while it does cater for beginners, their online resources are more focussed on animation. Available on macOS, Windows, Linux.

- **Pencil 2D, for making hand drawn 2D animations** is open-source and free to use. Some of the tutorials and forum resources are slightly outdates, but useful regardless. No registration is required. Available on macOS, Windows, Linux. *Good for beginners*

- **Gimp** is a free, open source image editor, capable of photo manipulation and graphic design. Useful tutorials can be found by following the link from the homepage. Available on macOS, Windows, Linux.

Convertors

- Handbrake; a free open-source video transcoder.
  Available on macOS, Windows, Linux.

- Mpeg Streamclip; free video convertor, player, editor.
  Available for macOS and Windows.

- Any Video Convertor is an extremely simple free video convertor.
  Available on macOS and Windows.