

Nichols Pro Audio

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To: Whomever it might concern

From: Gaston Nichols

Subject: Shamblin Sound Studios

I have been designing and installing audio and video studios for over thirty years in Birmingham, Muscle Shoals, and Nashville including Boutwell Studios, Prestige Productions, Sound of Birmingham, Front Row Productions, Sonat Corporate Communications, BJCC Medical Forum, Production Plus, FAME Studios, Quinvy Studios, SoundTrack Studios, Papa Don Productions, and hundreds of others throughout the South East. Currently we design and install high-end home theaters and home AV systems in the DownEast Maine area.

I am proud to say that I designed the studio for Mike Shamblin at his residence in Tuscaloosa. This is a fine example of a truly professional-quality home studio, and Mike has produced numerous projects in this studio that rival in quality those produced in major studios in New York and Los Angeles.

Unlike many "home" studios where the owners simply put up some acoustic treatments in an existing structure and call it a studio, this one was designed and built from the ground up specifically for sound recording. Mike made every effort to make sure that things were done correctly regardless of the cost involved. He used special low-noise Mogami cabling and special heating and cooling with oversized capacity to insure quiet operation. The walls, ceilings, and even the roof used multi-layer construction techniques. All joints were screwed and glued (instead of nailed) together for strength and durability, all windows used special double-pane laminated glass with acoustic seals, and the floors are solid for reduced sound transmission. He built a double-walled control room for maximum isolation, a raised, sand-filled floor for the drum booth, and used solid double-doors with special seals throughout. In other words, this was built to the same standards that most professional studios employ.

This level of quality construction does not come cheap. Mike says that he spent around \$50,000 building this studio. I feel sure that this is probably correct, and it would likely have cost more if he had not been personally involved with the contracting. I imagine that it would probably cost almost twice that amount to re-create it today.