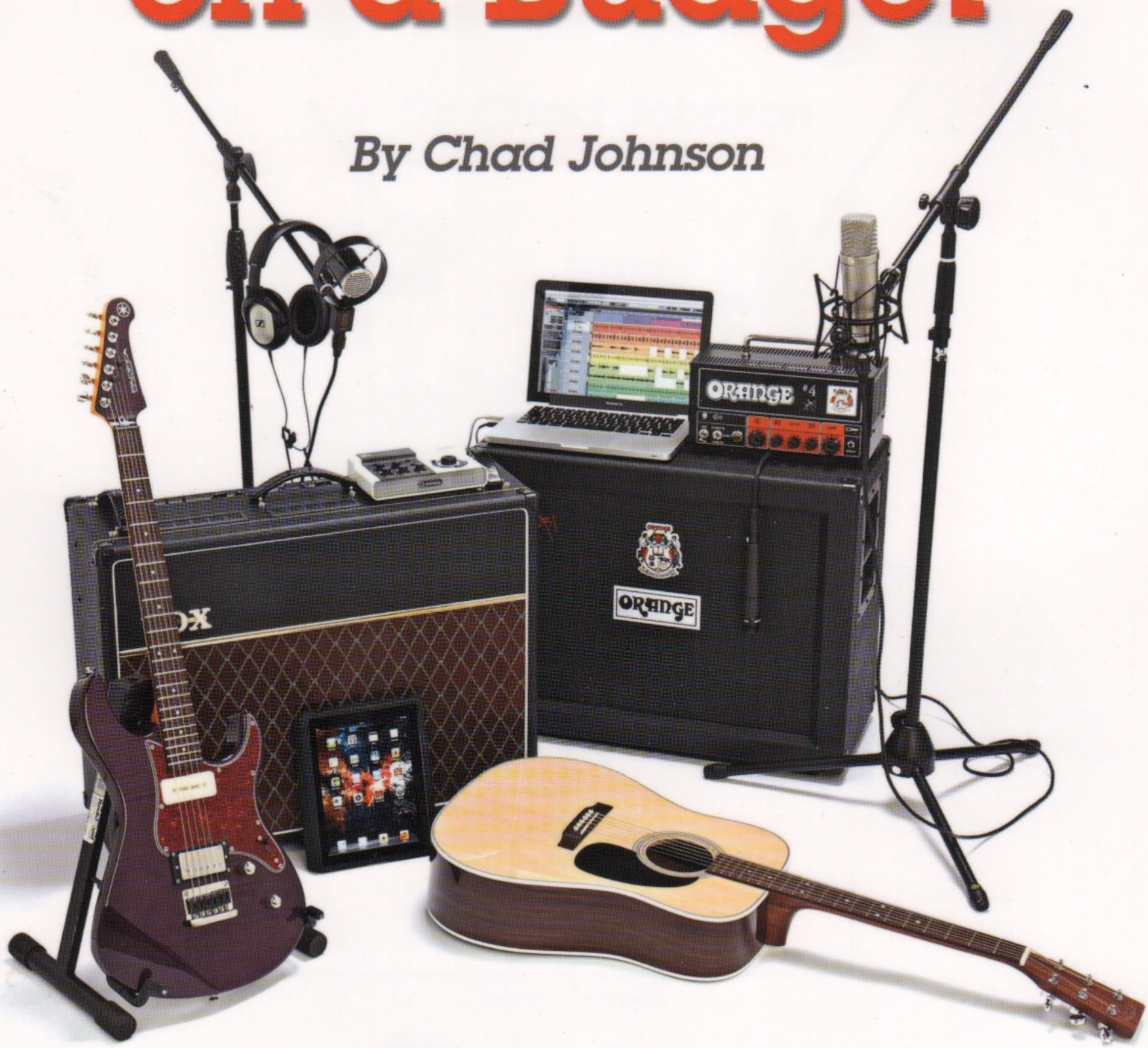
How To...

AUDIO ACCESS INCLUDED

Record at Home on a Budget

By Chad Johnson



Learn to Record Your Music in the Comfort of Your Own Home!

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Item 7: Cables, Stands, and Miscellaneous Items

All this equipment has to connect in some fashion, so you'll need several different types of cables. Here are the most common types:

XLR Mic Cables

These are the three-conductor cables mentioned earlier under Item 2 (the A/I). You'll most often use these to connect your mic to the preamp or interface, although you may also use them to connect your studio monitors, as well as other equipment. Marshall XLR cables were used exclusively for the recordings in this book.

1/4-inch Instrument Cables

This is your basic guitar cord. It's also known sometimes as a TS (tip-sleeve) cable, which means it has two conductors: hot (the signal, which is found on the tip of the plug) and ground (which is found on the "sleeve" of the plug—the opposite side of the black band from the tip). These are typically used in the studio as longer cables (10 feet or more, for plugging in guitars, keyboards, and such) and as shorter "patch cables" (anywhere from six inches to three feet) for connecting rackmount gear, guitar pedals, etc.

SoundRunner by MXL guitar cables were used exclusively for the recordings in this book.

Speaker Cables

These are 1/4-inch cables that are used to connect a guitar or bass amp to the speaker cabinet. Although they look just like a standard guitar cord (and use the TS format), they're quite different inside. They will usually say "speaker cable" or something similar along the outside of the cable. It's not a good idea to use a standard guitar cord for this purpose, as it's possible to damage the speakers. At the very least, it won't sound as good.

These should not be confused with the cables used to connect your studio monitors, which will typically be a normal TS instrument cable, a TRS cable, or an XLR cable (possibly an RCA cable).