

# A Tool For **Learning**

"I couldn't do what I do without the Flock Audio PATCH, and I wouldn't want to do it."

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Wavy Wayne

YOUTUBE AUDIO INSTRUCTOR



*With over 160,000 YouTube subscribers, Wavy Wayne is educating future audio pros around the world while helping them become more conversant with analog gear.*

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St. Louis, MO, March 29, 2021 – For anyone aspiring to master the craft of professional audio, there are more resources now than **ever before**. In the '60s and '70s, one had to **intern**, become someone's **protégé**, or study equipment manuals **front to back**. Pro audio programs at universities were scant, and there was no 'online' option because the Internet didn't exist. Now there are **hundreds** of collegiate level audio programs around the world, but these may not be financially accessible for some people. Enter **Wavy Wayne**, a professional audio instructor on YouTube.

# Thinking 'Outside The Box'

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As a former audio instructor at a college in the heart of St. Louis, Wavy Wayne began his YouTube channel as a resource for students missing class: *"If somebody missed a class, I would just direct them to my YouTube channel,"* he says. *"Everything kind of started out that way, and I received great feedback from people both inside the school and out. So I just kept making content."* Now, Wavy Wayne boasts more than 160k subscribers – though he insists he's never been in it for the numbers. *"I am not one to try to reach for a million views,"* he says. *"If 30 people watch a video and get something out of it, I am fine with that."*

Interestingly, his early video content and his own recording studio originally hinged on the concept of *getting away* from analog and working *inside* the box. Now, his journey has come full circle and Wavy Wayne evangelizes the benefits of working mostly *outside* the box and leveraging authentic, analog signal chains: *"I really do love the sound, the feel and the workflow of analog gear – it changes everything,"* he says. *"When I am working in the box, I am spending so much effort to make things sound 'imperfect'. But when I use analog hardware, it already sounds imperfect, giving me the character and flavor that I need. Getting outside the box is so much better."*

## Joining The Flock

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When he is not YouTube-ing, Wayne keeps a busy schedule into his recording business, often mixing two or three songs in a day. When he began favoring outboard analog gear – such as his LA2A, Empirical Labs Distressor and his Neve 8816 summing mixer – to their 'in the box' alternatives, having to do mix recalls with a traditional patchbay was a non-starter. *"I couldn't do what I do without the Flock Audio **PATCH**, and I wouldn't want to do it,"* he says. With **PATCH**, he uses two primary default presets: one for recording and one for mixing. *"I just hit a preset on the **PATCH** software, and in two clicks, I am set up for recording or mixing. I can then save any specific routings to my session folder, making mix recalls effortless. So if a client wants to tweak something in a certain song, or if they are looking for a different sound, all I have to do is access one of my saved presets and make an adjustment."*



Wayne says that when he first happened upon PATCH, it was something of a revelation: *"I was watching YouTube and I saw a video about the **PATCH**. At the time, I had a few outboard compressors and preamps I was using. I had a traditional 32-point patch bay but only used my outboard for recording because I didn't want to have to re-patch everything when it came to mixing. So when I heard about **PATCH** and I saw how it worked, I purchased the 64-point **PATCH** unit and never looked back. Now, just because of **PATCH**, I have tripled the amount of hardware I own,"* he says.

## A Superhero Among Patchbays

Setting up PATCH in his existing ecosystem was seamless, taking just 15 minutes: *"Darren [Nakonechny, CEO/Founder of Flock Audio] had some great videos on the website on how to set it up and use the PATCH App, and setup diagrams made it super easy to understand everything."*

Wayne says **PATCH** soon became less of a utility and more of a creative boon: *"I feel like now I can get so much more creative in my audio workflow,"* he explains. *"I can literally drag and drop another compressor into my signal chain, without even stopping the playback. Or I can swap a preamp and immediately hear the result. It is just so fluid."*





Wavy Wayne's most recent studio addition is a PATCH LT, which he uses in combination with his PATCH, giving him an additional 32 patch points. *"This works well for me, since I am using it in combination with my new Neve 8816 Summing Mixer,"* he explains. All in all, he says his investment the PATCH ecosystem was a smart choice. *"It really modernizes working with hardware, which is really invaluable to me. If you are going to build a new studio and you are using analog gear, why would you put any other patchbay in? This is the wave of the future, and it seems like a no brainer."* Meantime, Wavy Wayne says that his old analog patchbay is at the bottom of a closet somewhere, never to be seen or heard from again.

