



# 100 Tax Deductions for Music Creators

Regardless of your current relationship status with the IRS or your state, tax deductions are something you often think of before making purchases (and also when you're trying to file at 11:59pm on April 15. I know, no one had to tell me).

This list does NOT include *everything* you can deduct on your taxes for your music endeavors, but it certainly should give you a seriously good starting point.

Use the following list includes tax deductions for musicians, producers, songwriters, bands, recording studios and record labels.

## Equipment Tax Deductions



- Music equipment
- Equipment insurance
- Equipment repairs & maintenance
- Instruments
- Instrument rental
- Instrument insurance
- Computer
- Portion of stolen instruments, gear, or equipment
- Equipment/Instrument donations to charities

## Travel Tax Deductions



- Rental car
- Train tickets
- Baggage fees
- Plane tickets
- Bus tickets
- Travel insurance
- Hotel stays
- Uber rides/Cab fare
- Meals
- Public transportation
- Mileage

## Home Office Tax Deductions



- Office supplies
- Percentage of home rent/mortgage
- Studio or office rent
- Homeowner's insurance
- Real estate taxes
- Refreshments for studio/office guests
- Internet
- Electricity
- Water
- Gas
- Landline
- Cell phone
- Cell phone bill
- Cleaning & janitorial services
- Bathroom supplies (toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels)
- Artwork in office/studio
- Construction and renovation
- Furniture in studio/office
- Printer/Scanner/Fax machine
- Music industry publications/magazines
- Apps

## Music Tax Deductions



- CD Duplication
- Recording costs
- Mixing & Mastering
- Album Graphics
- Photoshoot
- Music video
- ISRC Registration
- Restocking fees on returns
- Sample clearances
- Sheet music
- Electronic beats or sounds
- Music conference ticket (SXSW, NAMM)
- Showcase application fees
- Cost of merch/CDs sold
- Merchandise design

## Admin. Tax Deductions



- Business cards
- Business registration and annual fees
- E-mail provider (*Google or Outlook*)
- Postage/delivery charges
- Accounting software (*Xero, Quickbooks*)
- E-mail Marketing (*Mailchimp*)
- Cloud storage (*Dropbox*)
- Online services *ReverbNation, Soundcloud, Bandcamp, etc.*)
- Website hosting
- Website maintenance
- Website design
- Union dues
- Business license
- Advertising (*social media, posters, etc*)

## General Tax Deductions



- Tuition
- Entertainment (*like tickets to concerts*)
- Student loan interest
- Retirement account contributions
- Health, vision, and dental insurance

## Financial Tax Deductions



- Cost of checks
- Wire transfer fees
- Overdraft fees
- ATM fees
- PayPal/Square fees
- Payroll taxes

## Vehicle Tax Deductions



- Vehicle Insurance
- Fuel
- Tolls
- Parking
- Oil changes
- Interest on auto loan
- EZ Pass or other fast pass for toll roads
- Repairs & maintenance
- Car wash/vacuum
- Total cost of car/ principal on auto loan

## Team Tax Deductions



- Payments to bandmates, backup singers, and accompanying musicians
- Booking agency commissions
- Manager commissions
- Lawyer fees
- Accountant fees
- Personal Assistant
- Distributor commissions
- Tax preparer fees

If you:

Keep really good records of your finances + Use this list + Hire a tax professional, you could save hundreds if not a few thousand dollars in taxes, for real.