

# Studio Time in the motherland

*Catching Up With motherland Studio's Producer Bradley Carter*

Bradley Carter shared some of his valuable time with me to answer some questions about his experience with the Toft ATB 32 analog console. Bradley is a member of the successful New Zealand based band Steriogram and is forging ahead with a new musical venture in Pistol Youth. I caught up with him at his studio in Hollywood, dubbed "motherland," (small m) where he lets his producing side shine. He has been working on a new album for Pistol Youth to follow up their EP release, *Smiling Can Backfire*. His schedule is filling up with people in search of a savvy producer with a good ear and the knowledge to maximize their respective talents.

Bradley has a lot going on. At first glance you can tell motherland is a musician's playground, it has tons of toys to noodle with. The cozy space is lined with guitars, a



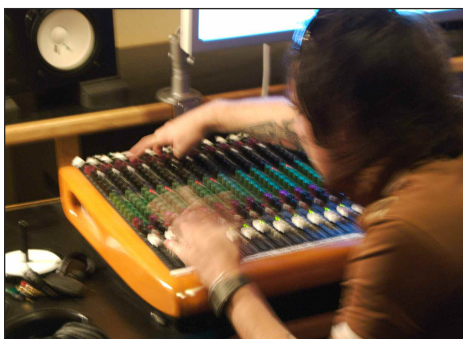
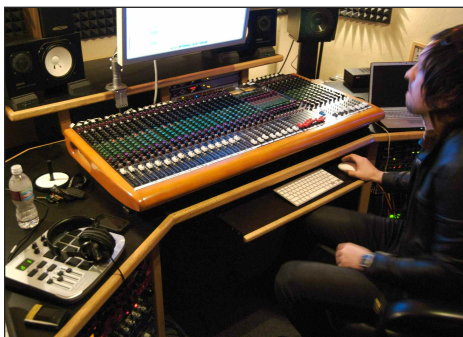
Welcome to motherland!

drum machine, vocal mics, keys, an amp stack, and the accouterments to lay them down with style. The collection of Mr. Potato Heads in the rafters grin in approval at every increment of Bradley's creative work. Bradley was excited to tell me that motherland's space will soon be increasing, and he will have room to record live drums.

Most of his time these days is spent refining new songs for Pistol Youth's new album due out in 2009. It has been an interesting path for the band because originally the other members were in different countries. The process was unique as Bradley would write the outline for a song and his mates would add to it from their locations. After Bradley recorded the basic structure for the songs, the sound files were then emailed or posted to the internet for the other members to download. Everyone was able to put their input into the songs and repost them so

Bradley could get to mixing. Bradley had a moment of happy realization with the addition of Anders' bass track. "Boom, it just came to life...it was like his take on what the song was meant to be. It was kind of like unwrapping a present that I made myself." In January the guys flew out to the studio to record more songs which Bradley is mixing now.

Accompanying Bradley's Toft ATB 32 is an 8 core Mac running Logic Pro 8, an Apogee AD-16x and DA-16X. There are also two 96 port patch bays so he can run anything in and out of it. "Last year I came off touring, I been touring for about 5 years with Steriogram and wanted to set up a studio...I really wanted to get a console, a lot of times I can do stuff in the box, but I wanted to get a console because every time Steriogram was in the studio everything was too fast. I would ask questions, but would never get to learn how to use a con-



Bradley demonstrates his deftness in the mix

sole properly and all the ins and outs of it, and its always intrigued me. When it was time to get my own studio together, I really wanted to get a console of sorts. I looked at some really old ones and weighed the pros and cons of ones that might need a lot of maintenance. Many of my friends had the old Tridents, which they really liked, but they had to have a guy available who could come by at any time in case anything went down. My friend in Sweden told me about these (the ATB), and we looked at them online. The whole EQ section is pretty much the same as the Trident 80B, that was kind of big plus for us.”

“Its really helped me get my head around other consoles. We were just recording drums at Henson and I knew my way around the SSL a lot better than I did before. To be honest, I am just getting to the point where I can do some mixing out of the box and its been really cool to have the flexibility of a console in front of me and the tangibility of being able to move faders. It’s kind of old school in a way, but it feels really good and it sounds good when it comes out the other end.”

“I really enjoy having this as the centerpiece for my studio.” Using the Toft 32 he sets up 24 channels to mix (with an additional 8 provided by Apogeos Rosetta 800 A-D converter) and the last 8 channels as pres. He was a bit skeptical about the pres at first but was really stoked when he put them to practice. It was great to see an artist able to increase his palette and refine his sound so seamlessly.

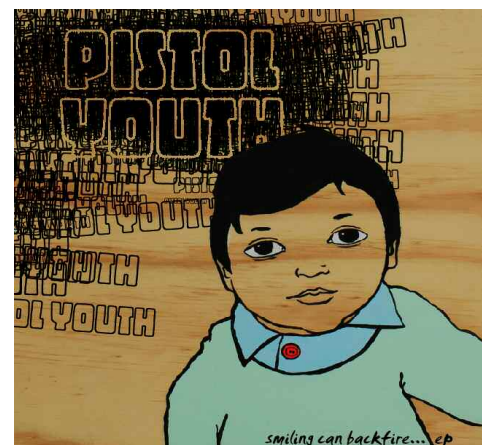
The new Pistol Youth album is coming out in 2009 and from what



The Mr. Potatoheads agree, Bradley Carter and Pistol Youth are headed for some serious airplay in 2009

I heard in the studio, it’s gonna be something you want in your music library. Make sure to check out Pistol Youth on itunes to download *Smiling Can Backfire* and visit [myspace.com/pistol youth](http://myspace.com/pistol youth) for updates and tour information.

-Derek E Mast



Pistol Youth’s first effort, *Smiling Can Backfire*

**Check out Pistol Youth on myspace [www.myspace.com/pistol youth](http://www.myspace.com/pistol youth)**

**Check out Steriogram on myspace [www.myspace.com/steriogram](http://www.myspace.com/steriogram)**

**For more information on the ATB, check out Toft Audio on the web [www.toftaudio.com](http://www.toftaudio.com)**