

How to Prepare Your Music for Mixing and Mastering

Mixing

EXPORTING TRACKS

To mix your music I will need each individual audio track from your session, exported as a WAV or AIFF file. Every instrument, vocal or sample needs it's own track. For example, if your session has 16 tracks, I will need 16 audio files. I do not accept session files of any kind.

Before exporting audio, please make sure that any processing has been removed from the channel itself and the master bus. This means any EQ, compression, or reverb. Delays, filtering and other effects can mostly stay. If you are unsure, don't hesitate to ask. It is also essential that there is no clipping in any of the tracks and that there are no pops or crackles in the audio. To avoid this make sure that different takes on the same track are edited together properly with crossfades in between.

All audio files submitted must start at the same time, so that they are correctly lined up when imported for mixing. Even if a sound or sample is only used at the end of the song, export the whole file, from the beginning of the song.

AUDIO LEVELS

Before exporting your audio, please make sure that none of the tracks are peaking beyond -1db. Any tracks that are must be turned down to prevent clipping and unwanted distortion.

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FILE FORMAT

The file format for all audio should be:

24bit, 44.1kHz, WAV or AIFF. I do not accept MP3s.

Other file types can be accepted, but please check with me first. All files submitted must be appropriately named. (For example, "Kick" "Guitar 1" "Guitar 1 DI")

ROUGH MIX, REFERENCE TRACKS AND NOTES

To help me to understand the sound and style you are going for, please submit a rough mix and any reference tracks. You must also submit some mix notes detailing the sound you are aiming for and any particular requirements you have for the music. This will help to reduce revisions, resulting in a quicker turnaround for your final mix.

Mastering

Make sure your mix is peaking at around -5db before you export it.

A mix peaking any higher could cause unwanted distortion when mastering. If your mix is peaking higher (or much lower) than -5db, you must adjust this. This should not be done by using the master fader, leave this at 0db. Instead, adjust the levels of every fader in your mix simultaneously until the output peaks at around -5db during the loudest part of your song.

Next, make sure any processing or dithering on the master bus is removed. EQ, compression and limiting will all affect the dynamics of the music, which is taken care of at the mastering stage.

Files should be submitted as 24bit, 44.1kHz, stereo interleaved WAV or AIFF files. MP3s will not be accepted. Other file types can be accepted, but please check with me first.