



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR SONG FOR MIXING

1. Exporting Your Stems

- **Export Individual Files:** I will need the individual instrument files, vocals and sounds from your track so I can get the best mix possible. For example, from a drum kit I'll need the individual kick file, snare file, hats, toms, crashes and so on. If you are using drum loops and can't separate the drums out then that's fine, but if you are able to then please provide individual instrument and vocal files.
- **Choose WAV 24 Bit format:** When exporting your files make sure you export them in WAV format as this is the highest quality file type. Also choose 24 bit WAV rather than 16 bit.
- **Keep Your Sample Rate:** If you recorded your track at a sample rate of 44.1kHz (default), 48k or another sample rate, you can keep that sample rate when exporting. No need to change it. If you're unsure what a sample rate is, it's ok - you don't need to do anything!
- **Label Your Files:** To help me navigate your track during mixing, please label your audio tracks clearly rather than just 'audio 1'. For example: Drums_Kick or Drums_Snare or Vocals_Lead etc
- **Ensure all files are aligned from Bar 1:** All tracks should start from **bar 1 / beat 1**, even if there's silence at the start, so everything lines up perfectly in my session.
- **Remove all Effects/Processing:** Please remove ALL effects from your vocals and instruments. This includes compression, EQ, reverb, delay and limiting. This is unless you feel they're essential to the sound. Creative effects such as delays, reverbs, special processing are sometimes what makes a particular sound what it is and you might want me to keep this. In that case, if there are any instruments or sounds where the effects are integral, please print off a version that is both dry (with all effects removed) **and** wet (with effects still included) so I have both versions.
- **Ensure your files are correct before sending:** Double-check your printed files for muted tracks, missing files, noise, or takes you don't want included. You'll be surprised at how many mixes I get where there are errors on the files. So it's always worth a quick listen to them once everything is exported.

*****Note:*** *There is no need to send me your DAW session file (Logic Pro Session, Pro Tools session etc) as I have my own mixing template that I use to start my mixes and I'd only end up exporting all of your audio anyway!*

2. How to send your stems to me

Ideally you will want to put all of your stems in a ZIP folder and then send them via a file sharing service such as:

- **Dropbox**
- **WeTransfer**
- **Disco**
- **Google Drive**
- **EasyTransfer**

3. Include a demo mix

Having a demo of your track is really important as it gives me an idea of the kind of sound and vibe you are aiming for. So if you have a demo mix please include it with your mixing files and label it '**[Song Title]_Demo Mix**'. Then I can hear your vision for balance, vibe, and arrangement.

4. Reference Tracks

If there are any professionally released songs that capture the sound, tone, or vibe you're aiming for then let me know as this can be helpful in ensuring that I'm taking your mix in the right direction for you. Usually, 1-2 tracks of reference can be helpful, but not essential.

If you don't have any reference tracks and would prefer to leave it to me to just go with the flow and work my magic - then we can do that!

5. Session Notes

Some people like to write out some notes/requests for the mix. This could be anything from 'I don't like too much reverb on my vocals' to 'the kick needs to sound powerful'. So feel free to send over any session notes in an email or in a word or PDF document.

If you have no session notes - that's fine. I'll go with my years of experience to get the best out of your song!

6.Song Tempo

Let me know the tempo of your track - this can be helpful if I need to align any of your audio. You can put this in an email to me or include it in your session notes if you have them. If you don't know the tempo, don't worry I can work around that.

If you have any further questions about the mix prep process please email aubrey@aubreywhitfield.com