

Prepare Your Tracks to be 'Mix-Ready'

This document is designed to make our lives easier. Follow these guidelines and the links below to prepare your tracks to send off for mixing. The time spent on your end will save time on my end getting you more for your money. Some terminology will be Pro Tools-centric by default, as that's the platform I work from. Use your own DAW to conform to the guidelines in the best way possible. Any questions, please reach out.

1. Editing:
 - a. Individual tracks: edits should render clean with no pops or clicks.
 - b. Crossfades, fade-ins/outs, etc: Please listen to them solo'd from top to bottom, start to finish before committing to a deliverable track to mix.
 - c. Playlists: It will be assumed that the top-most playlist showing is your master take for that track.
2. Naming: Track names ideally reflect the instrument. Audio 1 is not informative, nor is the .dupl suffix. Ideally.
3. Make your decisions: The tracks you send should reflect the arrangement, meaning if it shows up on-screen you want to hear it in the mix. Don't assume I will choose the take.
4. Consolidating, Rendering, Freezing tracks:
 - a. All tracks begin precisely from the same start point
 - b. Mono source tracks should render to mono tracks. Avoid rendering mono source tracks to a stereo stem.
 - c. Number your tracks in the order they should appear in the DAW.
5. Plugins: If you've dialed something in just the way you want it, provide the plugin used and/or render the processed sound to an additional audio track to include along with the original.
6. Midi tracks/Samples: Bounce or render your sounds to discrete audio tracks. If you combine sounds be sure this is what you want to hear. I may ask you to separate them out if needed.
7. For Pro Tools sessions create Memory Locations for each song.
8. Sample Rate, Bit Depth, file type: please provide in documentation
9. Instrumental Mixes, TV Mixes: On certain occasions these prints may incur a nominal charge. Ask in advance.
10. Reference material: if you've been referencing a particular song, band, commercial release, mention that up front before mixing. Your recorded tracks should reflect this

For more information check these links to online resources.

[SpectreSoundStudios](#) - not for the meek, includes foul language, smart-ass attitude, denigration & yelling :)

[Music & Technology](#)

[Pro Tools Expert](#) - Pro Tools-centric and applies mostly to the mix engineer

[SonicBidsBlog](#)