



SERVICES FAQ

How should I prepare my files?

MASTERING

Please provide your track in 24bit WAV at 44.1kHz, at no greater than – 6db peak on the master channel throughout the track – this will give us some headroom.

Please ensure there are **no effect chains** on the master channel. No limiters, compressors, gates, EQ.... you get the point 😊

Do not normalise audio when exporting.

MIXDOWNS

Reference/Arrangement Mix – Please provide a copy of the full song as a WAV or MP3 as well as the individual stems, this will allow us to check all stems have been correctly received and are functioning as per your original arrangement.

Master Effects – Ensure they are *all* removed/turned off.

Levels – Ensure there is no red-lining or clipping occurring at any point during the track. There should be no part of your track exceeding 0db on the master channel. A good habit is to have your master levels peak at around -6db, as this is the level expected for mastering. In most cases you can bring the faders up/down in unison to achieve this without losing your track level settings.

Label – Please ensure each track/channel is labelled effectively (Kick, Drum, Pad, Lead etc). It makes life much easier when setting up the mix!

Effects>Returns – Retain all effects that you have used on each channel. This includes Delays, reverbs, EQ and compression. If for whatever reason we require you to remove an effect on a certain sound we will be in touch to arrange this. If you are using the sends/returns in a novel way, no problem! Let us know and we can discuss the best option for your music – there are occasions where it is more beneficial to export the effects separately for mix editing.

Bus/Grouping – We appreciate you may have certain elements grouped (drums with some glue compression, for example, is a common one). If you would like us to retain a certain compression setting or effect of this nature, of course feel free to let us know and we will discuss the best way to achieve the sound you want.

Exporting – Please export full track length stems at 44.1kHz, 24 bit (WAV) format. Export your stems with returns (unless discussed otherwise) and with no effects on the master channel. Make sure you select ‘no dither’ or equivalent on your DAW.

How long will it take?

Mixdowns take up to 5 working days from scheduled date of booking.
Mastering takes 1-3 working days from scheduled date of booking.

How many stems can I use for mixdown?

There is no limit to the amount of stems for our mixdown service.

What genres do you work with?

We specialise in progressive, melodic, tech house, but also work with electronica, ambient and cinematic music. If in doubt, give us a shout and we can discuss your project!

What happens once I order mixdown services from you?

Once you have booked a date for us to work with your music and paid for the service, you will be directed to a Dropbox upload page, with instructions (similar to this FAQ) for uploading your WAVs, depending on the service you have purchased.

I have a question that isn't on here, where can I find the answer?

No worries! Drop us an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Our email is info@keepthinkingmusic.com.