



MIXDOWN & MASTERING FAQ

Hey! Kris here – hopefully this set of FAQs will shed some light on any queries you have; however, if you can't find the answer here, email me on info@keepthinkingmusic.com with your query and I'll get back to you ASAP.

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 me ample headroom.

Please ensure there are **no effect chains** on the master channel.

Do not normalise audio when exporting and export without 'dither' if you have the option in your DAW/studio.

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 me 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 general 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. Separating with simple titles such as Drum, Bass, Melodic, Vox & FX means I spend less time sorting your stems and more time working on your music. 😊

Effects>Returns – Retain all effects that you have used on each channel. This includes Delays, reverbs, EQ and compression. If for whatever reason I require you to remove an effect on a certain sound, I will be in touch to arrange this. If you are using the sends/returns in a novel way, no problem! Let me know and we can discuss the best way forward. In most cases, exporting the send/returns as separate stems is the best option.

Bus/Grouping – I appreciate you may have certain elements grouped (drums with some glue/bus comp, for example, is a common one). If you would like me to retain a certain compression setting or effect of this nature, of course feel free to let me 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 send/returns in their own channel (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?

I will aim to have your mixdown complete in 5-7 working days.
Mastering takes 1-3 working days.

How many stems can I use for mixdown?

There is no limit to the number of stems for mixdown. It’s all included in the rate.

What genres do you work with?

I specialise in progressive, melodic & tech house, but have also worked with electronica, ambient and cinematic music. If in doubt, drop me a line and we can discuss your project!

What happens once I order mixdown services from you?

Once you have paid for the service, I will contact you personally with a link to drop in your files. I’ll then check them over and make sure they are all ready to work on. If there are any issues I’ll let you know!

What if I would like any changes to the mixdown/masters?

If you need any adjustments after you receive you mix or master, just let me know. Although rarely requested, I make any initial amendments **free of charge**. It’s really important to me that you are happy with the end results. Further edits beyond this are charged at an hourly rate of **£35.00 per hour**.

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

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