



## Preparing your files for Mastering

### Essential Checklist:

- Audio files are well named
- No audio is clipping (hitting 0dB)
- Bit rate is set to 24 bits minimum
- Use your source sample rate (if your project is in 44100Hz don't upsample)
- Export audio as WAV or AIFF files
- Turn off any compressors or limiters on your master channel

### The Extra Mile:

- Include 1 or 2 reference tracks
- Include your notes/requests in a text document

### How to name your files:

Include the artist name, track name and remixer (if it's a remix). For official releases, please also include the release name and catalog number

### How much headroom to leave:

Short answer: As long as your audio doesn't hit 0dB it will be fine.

Long answer: to be safe, try to ensure your peak volume (NOT RMS) tends to hit around -3db at the loudest parts. As long as it doesn't pass -0.1dB it is safe for mastering.

### If you prefer to keep your master plugins turned on:

No problem! In this case just send me two versions, one with your master chain and one without. I will use the version that brings us the best result.

### Choosing a good reference track:

If you want to include a reference track, please note: it should have the same style and groove as your music and most importantly it should be professionally mixed and mastered. Using similar songs from top labels in your genre is a good approach.