



Please read below how to prepare your tracks before you send them for MIXING.

General requirements:

1. Edit all of your tracks if needed. Your tracks must be edited before sending them to mixing.
2. It is very IMPORTANT that you make sure all your edits/punch ins are cross faded and are as seamless as possible before you consolidate your audio. Be sure to bounce/export/render/consolidate the entire tracks! Therefore we ask that you include at least two bars of silence at the start and two more at the end of each track.
3. A rough mix of each of the songs is welcome! We will refer to it, to figure out what's the main line, the lead instrument, where the emphasis should be, etc.
4. Feel free to include an extra folder with some songs from bands that you like their production and sound approach. We will keep that vibe in mind during mixing, but we will always be aware of not making you sound like a clone. Keeping your character as a band is our priority. This will only be a guide and results will vary depending on the quality of the recorded tracks provided. Please make sure that any song references you include are Wav files, not lossy over-compressed mp3.
5. Provide us with the tempo of each song. See the detailed description below.
6. All tracks should be labeled clearly and simply. For example, the kick drum should be labeled KICK, the trigger impulse or resample kick should be labeled KICK TRIGGER, the direct input for the bass should be labeled BASS DI, guitars as GTRS, vocals as VOX etc. All the drum tracks should be together, all the guitars, all the vocals, keyboards, etc. Please use CAPITALS. Make sure that you've included only the correct files and that nothing is missing. Always test each song by importing the files into a DAW and checking that everything's present and aligned.
7. If your songs contain very complex choir parts, intricate 200+ tracks of samples, or heavily orchestrated sections, our advice is to premix those and send me stereo stems.

8. Please specify if the panning is from drummer or audience perspective. We personally prefer the audience perspective.
9. If you have tracks that are depending on a plug-in, always bounce or record this to a new track and name it accordingly. (for example: GTR 1 delay)
10. Special tasks such as editing, instrumentals/playbacks, additional mixes, vocal tuning and printing stems are not included in a mixing session. Let us know if you are interested in any of these services, as they require a special agreement at an extra cost.
11. Please include the name and email address of the recording engineer in case contact is needed.

For Pro Tools users:

1. Clean up your tracks: All of your alternative takes and unused stuff must be deleted.
2. If you used Virtual Instruments, bounce them to audio files and include only these files in the session.
3. Consolidate all of your regions, items and clips.
4. Any markers regarding the structure of the song such as intro, verse 1, Chorus etc are welcome and will help us navigate through the session swiftly. Besides that, this will make our communication easier.
5. If you recorded to a click all tempo and meter changes must be included each Pro Tools session. We accept Pro Tools sessions (16, 24 and 32 bit files at 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96 and 192 kHz). Please let us know which version of Pro Tools you used on your project in order to save your session accordingly.

For any other DAW users:

1. If you recorded to a click, export the tempo map and any time signature changes as MIDI files for each song, and include those files. If there's just one tempo for one song and it's all 4/4 then just make a note of the tempo value.
2. Make sure that all files have a start time of 0:00:00. That way, we will just have to import the files and everything will be aligned perfectly at this end. This is the simplest way to transfer your material, even if some of the time it might mean that a guitar solo has two minutes of silence before it.

3. Programs like Cubase will render any plug-ins, automation, volume, and pan settings that are on the tracks when you export them. It is very important that you remove all plug-ins and automation, and that you make sure the fader in the program is set to unity gain or “0”, along with having the pan set at center. When you export them, make sure to export them MONO, and not STEREO. If for example you recorded your overheads for the drum kit to a stereo track, simply divide the track into two mono tracks and label them left (L) and right (R).

We accept WAV 16, 24 and 32 bit files at 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96 and 192 kHz.

Optional request:

In order to be able to provide you a fair and accurate quotation for your project, we would appreciate if you sacrifice some of your precious time by answering the questions below:

- What is the name of your band?
- Do you have a web site or a place where we could hear your music?
- Are you signed or independent?
- Which instruments are played on these songs?
- Which is the maximum number of audio tracks used in your session?
- Do you also need reamping and/or mastering?
- How many songs do you want us to mix?
- How long does your album last in total?
- When do you want the mix to take place? Do you have a specific deadline?

Do you have any questions?

Don't hesitate to contact us: info@grindhousestudiosathens.com