

MikeRoePhonics Digital Audio

Professional Mixing & Mastering Services

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GUIDE TO PROJECT TRANSFERS – FOR MASTERING

Before sending your project for mastering, there are certain dos and don'ts to consider. I have listed some guidelines that will help make the process smooth & easy. Please don't interpret bold text as "yelling". It's bold simply to stress it's importance. :)

01.) When preparing your project for transfer to the studio, **MAKE BACKUPS FIRST**. Do NOT send in your only copies of the project. Bring the copies to the studio. Leave the originals in a safe place.

02.) If the project CD-R or DVD-R is scratched, there is a good chance it has errors on it. If it looks like someone took a brillo pad to it, chances are it will have non-recoverable errors on it, and may not play at all. (This is a bad thing.) **Please store your discs in a protective case.**

03.) Please keep your project organized. Properly label your project media (CD-R's, DVD-R's, etc). Use a consistent file naming structure whenever possible, such as **'Track 01_How My Love Has Grown - Mixed.wav'**, versus **'Demo Mix.wav'**.

04.) When mixing to a digital format, do not exceed 0.0dBFS (decibels full-scale). This causes digital clipping, and is undesired and irreversible. When mixing at 24-bit, allowing the song to peak at -10dBFS to -15dBFS is quite fine. The final volume will be adjusted during the mastering process.

05.) **Please** don't compress the output bus too much on mix-down. Compression is irreversible, and limits what is possible during the mastering stage. If you need something impressive to show your band mates or friends, make two separate mix-downs; one with little or no compression, and another with as much compression as you feel necessary. You can send both versions in for mastering if you wish. Just name them appropriately.

06.) Use the highest resolution possible during mix-down. 24-bit is highly recommended, and preferred. Use a minimum sample rate of 44.1kHz. Using 88.2kHz sample rates and higher offer negligible improvement in sound quality, but you may choose to record at these higher rates. MikeRoePhonics Digital Audio can work with sample rates up to 96kHz.

07.) **Please** do not mix-down to an .mp3 or other lossy compressed file format. Mp3 and similar formats lose clarity and spaciousness captured during the recording process and will introduce audible artifacts. To the casual listener this is inaudible. However, these artifacts will reveal themselves during the mastering process, and things can get pretty ugly... **Record to a lossless, uncompressed format, preferably as a 'Microsoft Wave' (.wav) file at 24-bit, 44.1kHz.**

08.) Do not burn your tracks to an Audio CD (Also known as a Red Book Audio CD) unless the *source* recordings are 16-bit, 44.1kHz. This disc format requires that the audio is recorded at exactly 16-bit, 44.1kHz. If your source recordings were 24-bit or higher prior to burning to an Audio CD, you will lose a considerable amount of resolution during the conversion to 16-bit. Burn project data CD-R's and DVD-R's as computer **data discs**.

09.) The preceding information is far more than technical babble. Following these steps will help ensure that your recordings are clean, clear and dynamic after the mastering process. If you have any questions before or after sending in your work for mastering, **please call MikeRoePhonics Digital Audio at (563) 940-4004**. You may also **e-mail me at mike@mikeroephonics.com**

