



HOENINGER
MIXING

Preparing Your Stems For Mixing

1 What do I send?

You should only send stems to your engineer that you actually want to have mixed. Unless otherwise specified, do not send additional takes that you did not use in your demo or other versions of your song.

2 Who does the Editing?

Make sure that stems are time- and pitch-corrected, and that all unwanted noises or clicks in your files are taken care of before the mixing process begins. If you are having trouble with such issues, do not hesitate to reach out to us. We can provide those in need with further information on the topic.

3 What about my levels?

Setting your individual track levels appropriately is not only important to avoid clipping and save headroom, but also to make sure that the plugins your mixer will use operate at their peak efficiency. A good rule of thumb is setting the peak levels of the loudest part of your song to around -10 dB.

4 Processing - on or off?

Ideally, you should send out two folders to your mixing engineer. One should contain all your dry stems, and the second all your wet stems. This is done to ensure your engineer has as much control as possible over the individual tracks. Depending on your specific situation, this may or may not be necessary, however you should always consult your engineer before sending them any stems.

5 WAV or AIFF?

Both will provide results of the same quality, but your engineer might still have a preference. Follow their instructions here or consult them if you are unsure. What you should absolutely avoid is sending out MP3, or worse, M4A files. Downsampled formats like these lack the data to properly represent the full waveforms necessary for a quality mix.

6 Am I losing quality?

The process of choosing the right bit depth and sample rate can be quite confusing. In order to make this process easier for artists while ensuring that you are maintaining quality, keep the bit depth and sample rate exactly the same as in your project settings. However, make sure that you are exporting stems at least 24 bit / 44.1 kHz resolution.

7 How do I label stems?

Doing this step correctly will save you and your team a lot of time and \$\$\$; so make sure to do it properly. Label your stems clearly and keep the names short. For example, 01 Kick, 02 Snare, 03 Hihat, etc. Be sure to ask your engineer for specific instructions on how to name your exported files.

8 Are references important?

Yes, absolutely. References prevent your engineer from having to guess what your vision for a song is. There are a lot of subjective decisions when it comes to mixing a song, and sending 1-2 references is extremely helpful to point your team in the right direction.

9 What else do I provide?

Make sure to provide all the essential information about your project upfront. This does not only include the above-mentioned resolution, tempo and key of your song, but also information such as song titles as well as track numbers (if you are working on a full-length EP/album).

10 Anything else?

Before sending files and necessary information to your engineer make sure to double-check each of the previous 9 points mentioned. This will help to avoid mistakes and delays during the mixing process. It is only normal to have missed something during your initial compilation, so do not overlook this step.



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julian@hoeningermixing.com

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