jl audio

File delivery recommendations

Some guidelines for when you send over your files & what information to either embed in their names or provide alongside them. Check the section(s) below for your service — mixing/stem mastering, mastering, and production & sound design each have slightly different requirements.

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01 Files to be provided

- **Bounced pre-mix** — if you've done your own mix or premix bounce, send it: it helps gauge the balance and vibe you're going for. *
- **Reference tracks** — a commercial reference song, if you already have one, as a lossless file, for mix-vibe and loudness target.
- **Session file** — include the DAW session you produced/premixed the track in, in case anything needs re-exporting. *
- **Stems/multitracks** — wet instrumental multitracks, wet & dry vocals, and any return tracks carrying vocal effects. *

STEM & MULTITRACK PREP *

- **Naming:** group name_stem name — e.g. *drums_kick_wet_compressed*
- **Folder naming:** artist - track title - bpm — e.g. *nova drift - overdrive - 150 bpm*
- **Peak levels:** around −6 dBFS, never above −1 dBFS — don't normalise
- **Automation:** all automation included, including group and mix-bus processing
- **Effects:** insert effects stay on; send effects printed into the stem in solo, with the send included
- **Master bus:** master-bus effects and limiting removed before export — if you used processing for reference, take a screenshot before disabling it and send it with your files
- **Editing & arrangement:** fully comped, edited, tuned, arranged — no clicks, bad transitions, or silent tracks
- **Groups:** if exporting stem groups, export them too, named clearly — e.g. drums group, vocals group, synth group

01 Files to be provided (continued)

MASTERING

- **File:** one stereo file — the final mixdown, not stems
- **Master bus:** no limiter or clipper on the master bus
- **Peaks:** at or below −1 dBFS, with headroom around −6 dBFS
- **Fades:** left as intended, unless you tell us otherwise
- **Reference:** a reference track, plus a note on the platform or loudness you're aiming for

STEM MASTERING

- **Groups:** grouped stems only — drums, bass, vocals, music/synths, fx — not individual multitracks
- **Alignment:** every stem starts at bar 1 and runs the full length, so they stay in sync
- **Automation, effects & peaks:** as set out in stem & multitrack prep above

PRODUCTION & SOUND DESIGN

- **References:** references or temp tracks — whatever you've been using to describe the direction
- **Material:** any demos or stems that already exist, even rough ones
- **Tempo:** key and BPM, if there's a click or tempo to lock to
- **Picture:** the cut, with format/frame rate and timecode burn-in, and whether it's locked or unlocked
- **Cue list:** a cue list if you have one — otherwise just timestamp what needs music or SFX
- **Stems:** dialogue/SFX stems, if you're working from an edit that has them

02 Additional information to be provided

FORMAT	RESOLUTION	SAMPLE RATE	KEY
WAV or AIFF	32-bit float / 24-bit	native — don't upsample	include with your files

NOTE Extra charges may apply for incomplete or inaccurate files that require fixes or replacements.

03 Export & submit

01 Export all channels separately, full track length — all stems should match the length of the premix. Remove unused/silent tracks. *

02 If using groups, export those too, named clearly — e.g. drums group, vocals group, synth group. *

03 Double-check by importing your stems into a new session and comparing against the premix — re-export if anything doesn't match. *

04 Label all stems properly.

05 Upload your files to your own Drive/Dropbox/WeTransfer

06 Submit the link along with your project details via the intake form I sent you

* Mixing & Stem Mastering clients only

Questions? jacob@jacoblewis.com

- Jacob

