jl audio

File delivery recommendations — stem mastering

Some guidelines for when you send over your files & what information to either embed in their names or provide alongside them.

01 Files to be provided

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

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

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

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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

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Questions? jacob@jacoblewis.com

- Jacob

