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Q. What is the best level for my mixes

A. A tricky topic. The short answer is, leave 3-6 dB of headroom. If you are using a limiter *only* to achieve higher level then send along mixes with and without the limiting you have been using. If your two-mix processing is a part of the overall sound chances are that will give a better sense of what you intend with your mixes.

Q. Should I do the fades at the end of pieces and clean up the beginnings before coming in to master? Should I bring the project in already in sequence?

A. Almost never. If there is a tricky fade that you want to do at a beginning or end then feel free, but in general you should leave the trimming and fading for the mastering session. If you are mixing in a workstation environment and it is easy to re-order the songs then by all means. While it certainly is convenient to have the material in sequence it usually does not save much time in the mastering studio given the speed and ease of editing and sequencing.

Q. What Sampling rate should I use to bring my mixes in?

A. This is a tricky question. The first answer is, keep them at the sample rate used when you started the mixing project. Usually the higher the sampling rate, the better the sound will be. There are instances where 44.1 will sound at least as good as 48. If possible, recording your mixes at 88.2 or 96 will yield better results.

Q. What resolution (aka bit depth) should I use to bring my mixes in?

A. The higher the better. Always mix to a 24-bit file minimally.

Q. What is the best format to bring my mixes in to mastering?

A. Always bring the master, first generation mixes when possible.

Q. Should I 'normailze' the tracks before coming in?

A. NO, NO and NO. This will always have a negative effect on the fidelity of the project and will not help us in mastering in ANY way.

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Q.	QC?
A.	When you receive the master it's strongly advised that you give it a good listen on a clean, reliable system to make sure everything sounds correct to you. If there are changes you'd like to make or if something seems wrong, please contact us immediately.
Q.	Is analog better than digital?
A.	It's kind of like saying, do you like ketchup or mustard on your hot dog (or both!). They each have strengths and weaknesses and depending on where you end up, we can handle both. To find out more, read our article, " Analog vs. Digital: Battle of the Two Formats. "
Q.	What if the mastering engineer doesn't like my music?
A.	We consider our job a craft...like that of a picture framer, we need to choose the right frame for your picture. It is our job to assist you by enhancing your project and fostering the communication from you to your audience.