Preparing Files for Mastering

- We can work with many different file formats; your files should be minimum 44.1kHz, 24 bits. If your files are in a different format you *DO NOT HAVE TO CONVERT THEM*. This can be better taken care of in the mastering process instead.

- Please ensure that files sent for mastering have no limiters/maximizers/clipping applied. Make sure the material isn't clipping digitally. No panic if it has a few overs as long as you can't hear it, but anything more than that and you need to bring your master fader down!

- DO NOT NORMALIZE THE FILES! It only leads to extra hours of work to unify the levels of the songs. Mix all songs at the same level and don't touch the master fader, and you'll make the mastering process a lot easier!

- It's often good to leave all fades for the mastering process; make sure to include clear specifications on how you want the fades and approximately where they should start and end.

- Name all files in a way that is easy to interpret, i.e. Track Number – Track Name.

- Please send the files through your preferred online transfer service, and zip the files before sending to ensure intact data structure. We can also provide you with a Dropbox file request link if you prefer.

- The master is delivered online as a DDP image or in Bin/Cue format. If you need a physical Audio CD Master there is an additional charge. Other formats are available upon request. In either case, the master will be delivered only when full payment has been received!

  - DDP is a professional format used by many pressing plants world-wide. If the pressing plant accepts this format, it's by far the best option for master delivery.

  - Wav/Cue consists of a single wav file for the whole project, plus a cue file containing references to the track markers. This format can also be used by home users to make reference copies.

About CD Text

The CD Text format will make it possible for certain CD players (mainly high-end CD players and some car radios) to display information stored on the disc. This is not to be confused with the information that shows up in programs like iTunes or other music players, which is instead gathered from an online database.

Should you want CD Text added to your CD, make sure that you proof-read all the content. The most common information to be added is artist name, album title and song title. Other things that can be added are songwriter, composer, arranger and a special message. Note that CD only supports basic ASCII characters, so any regional characters and/or characters with accents will have to be converted. **If you do want CD Text included,** please make a clear note about it; we usually skip this by default.

About Vinyl Version

When preparing a master for vinyl duplication, the treatment of the audio will differ from a master made for CD duplication or digital distribution. While vinyl printing *can* technically be made from the same master version, it's highly recommend to use a dedicated version for this. (An additional charge applies; see price list on the website for reference).

Please specify where you want the splits between sides. Be aware that side lengths on vinyl are quite limited and the more you intend to squeeze in on a single vinyl side the lower the output and worse the sound quality. Borrowing recommended side lengths from www.saltmastering.com:

Speed: 33 1/3 rpm

12" LP
18:00-20:00 = Very Good
20:00-22:00 = Good
22:00-24:00 = Fair
Above 24:00 = Not recommended

7"
0:00-7:00 min (not recommended)

Speed: 45 rpm

12" Single
6:00-8:00 = Great
8:00-10:00 = Good

12" LP
12:00-15:00 = Great

7"
3:00-3:30 = Great
3:30-4:00 = Good
4:00-4:30 = Fair
4:30 & up = Not recommended

About ISRC codes

ISRC codes can be added to the master upon request. Please ask your record label for information regarding this. ISRC can usually also be added at the CD duplication plant if not added in the mastering process.