

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR SESSION FOR MIXING

 **Metropolis**

INFORMATION DECK



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Mixing is the process of blending and balancing individual audio tracks to create a cohesive and polished song. During mixing, elements such as vocals, instruments, and effects are adjusted through volume, EQ, compression, panning, and reverb to ensure clarity, depth, and emotional impact. The goal is to make every part work together harmoniously while shaping the overall sound and feel of the record, making mixing the essential process before mastering.

Before sending your project over, make sure you're happy with the production, arrangement, and performances. Mixing can elevate a track dramatically, but it works best when the creative decisions are already in place. Take time to clean up unused tracks, label everything clearly, and commit any tuning or sound design choices you want preserved.

The more prepared your session is before mixing begins, the more time can be spent focusing on the creative and sonic details that make your track stand out.

Following the steps below will make the process smoother, faster, and ensure nothing important gets missed.

PRO TOOLS

SESSION PREP

Please send:

- Your current Pro Tools session with all plugins active
- A committed copy of every track
- All original audio files included

BEFORE EXPORTING

- Delete all inactive tracks
- Commit all active tracks
- Double-check all sends and group assignments
- Uncheck "Insert After Last Track"
- Set Source Tracks to: **Make Inactive**
- Remove unused audio
(Shift + Cmd + U then Shift + Cmd + B)

SAVE & DELIVER

Go to:

- File > Save Copy In...
- Make sure **Audio Files** is selected before saving.

LOGIC PRO

TO EXPORT WET TRACKS

(Tracks with effects processing included)

Before exporting, move all Aux tracks into the main arrangement window:

- Select Aux tracks in the mixer
- Press Ctrl + T

Then:

Go to File > Export > All Tracks as Audio Files

Check:

- Include Volume/Pan Automation
- Include Audio Tail

Uncheck:

- Bypass Effect Plugins

Set Normalize to:

- Off

or

- Overload Protection Only

TO EXPORT DRY TRACKS

(Tracks without effects processing)

First commit all vocal tuning:

- Leave only tuning plugins active
- Go to File > Bounce > Bounce Track In Place

Then:

Go to File > Export > All Tracks as Audio Files

Check:

- Include Volume/Pan Automation
- Bypass Effect Plugins
- Set Normalize to Off

ABLETON LIVE

TO EXPORT WET TRACKS

Return tracks will automatically be included when exporting all individual tracks.

- Go to **File > Export Audio/Video**
- Set **Rendered Track to:**
All Individual Tracks

Check:

- Include Volume Automation
- Include Pan Automation (if used)
- Ensure the full song length is highlighted to capture delays/reverbs

Uncheck:

- Disable Effects

Set Normalize to:

- Off

or

- Overload Protection Only

TO EXPORT DRY TRACKS

First commit all vocal tuning:

- Leave only tuning plugins active
- Freeze and Flatten the vocal tracks

Then:

Go to **File > Export Audio/Video**

- Set **Rendered Track to:**
All Individual Tracks

Check:

- Include Volume Automation
- Include Pan Automation (if used)
- Disable Effects
- Set **Normalize to Off**

FL STUDIO

TO EXPORT WET TRACKS

Before exporting:

- Ensure all FX returns are routed correctly through Mixer Send tracks
- Name all tracks clearly

Then:

- Go to **File > Export > WAV**
- Set **Mode** to:
Split Mixer Tracks

Check:

- Enable Insert Effects
- Enable Send Effects
- Leave Remainder (to include effect tails)

Set **Normalize** to:

- Off

or

- Protect Overloads

TO EXPORT DRY TRACKS

First commit all vocal tuning:

- Leave only tuning plugins active
- Consolidate the track:
 - Highlight the full song range
 - Press **Ctrl + Alt + C**

Then:

Go to **File > Export > WAV**

- Set **Mode** to:
Split Mixer Tracks

Check:

- Enable Insert Effects

Uncheck:

Enable Send Effects

Set **Normalize** to Off • Include Pan Automation (if used)

- Disable Effects
- Set **Normalize** to Off