

PRE-MIXDOWN CHECKLIST



YOU HAVE TOTALLY FRESH EARS THAT ARE NOT AT ALL FATIGUED



MAKE SURE TO GIVE EVERY INSTRUMENT IT'S OWN SPACE IN THE MIX WITH EQ AND VOLUME. DON'T SOLELY RELY ON PANNING!




USE AT LEAST 2 REFERENCE TRACKS




YOU ARE INSPIRED BUT PRESENT, EXCITED BUT FOCUSED, AND EAGER TO WORK



REMEMBER TO TAKE BREAKS (EVEN EVERY 20 MINUTES)



ARRANGEMENT IS NOT TOO CONGESTED. MAKE ROOM FOR EACH INSTRUMENT IN ARRANGEMENT BEFORE MIXDOWN (IF POSSIBLE)



DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT PERFECT IN YOUR FIRST MIXDOWN. MULTIPLE MIXDOWNS GIVE YOUR EARS AND BRAIN TIME TO RESET!



MIX IN BOTH MONO AND STEREO



DOWDEN
PRODUCTION
ACADEMY

MID-MIXDOWN CHECKLIST



FIRST, TAKE A BREAK THEN COME BACK TO THIS. YOU DON'T WANT TIRED EARS!



YOU'RE LISTENING AT A CONVERSATION LEVEL OF VOLUME (IF IT SOUNDS GOOD QUIET, IT WILL SOUND BETTER LOUD)



NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, CHECK MIX IN BOTH MONO AND STEREO



USE A SPECTRUM ANALYZER TO CHECK FOR ANY UNDESIRED FREQUENCY BUILD UP



YOU'RE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS ARE LOUDEST BY CONTRAST



YOU'VE PANNED SOME INSTRUMENTS AND KEPT MOST OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE CENTER



TRY DIALING BACK REVERBS AND DELAYS IN CASE THEY ARE CLOUDING UP YOUR MIX



CHECK THAT YOUR SIDECCHAIN COMPRESSION SETTINGS AREN'T OVER COMPRESSING



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POST-MIXDOWN CHECKLIST



ONLY CHECK YOUR MIX AFTER YOU'VE TAKEN A LONG BREAK - TIRED EARS WON'T GIVE YOU A PROPER MIX REFERENCE



EVERY INSTRUMENT HAS ITS OWN SPACE IN THE MIX WITH EQ AND VOLUME



USE AT LEAST 2 REFERENCE TRACKS TO CHECK VOLUME REFERENCE LEVELS



YOU ARE NOT UNINTENTIONALLY CLIPPING AT ANY STAGE OF YOUR MIX



YOU HAVE FILTERED OUT ANY UNNECESSARY FREQUENCIES WITHOUT COMPROMISING YOUR MIX



REVERB/DELAY TAILS ARE CONTROLLED AND NOT OVERLAPPING TO THE POINT OF MUDDINESS



YOU'RE LEAVING ENOUGH HEADROOM FOR YOUR MASTERING ENGINEER (USUALLY -3DB TO -6DB)



CHECK MIX IN BOTH MONO AND STEREO AND ON MULTIPLE DEVICES (CAR, LAPTOP, ETC)

