



How to Prepare Stems for Mixing

If your project wasn't recorded at Creation X, we'll need properly prepared stems to achieve the best mix. Please follow these guidelines before sending files:

1. **Export Each Track as Audio**

- Export all tracks as WAV or AIFF.
- Preferred sample rate is **48kHz / 32-bit Float**, unless the project was originally recorded at 44.1kHz or 96kHz — in which case, keep the original.
- No MP3s unless agreed.

2. **Consolidate from Zero**

- Each track should start from bar 1, beat 1 (zero).
- This keeps everything aligned when we import into the mix session.

3. **Label Clearly**

- Name each file with its content, e.g. *Kick In, Kick Out, Snare Top, Lead Vox, BVs 1–3, GTR Rhythm L, Synth Pad, etc.*

4. **Remove Plugins (Unless Essential)**

- Print tracks dry with no EQ, compression, or reverb.
- If a sound relies on an effect (e.g. guitar amp sim, special vocal FX), print both a “dry” and “wet” version.

5. **Check Levels**

- Avoid clipping. Aim for around –6dB to –3dB peak level per track.

6. **Ensure Clean Files**

- Remove unwanted noises, clicks, pops, or silence before exporting.
- If you'd like us to clean noisy or messy files, please let us know — this will require extra time and cost.

7. **Bounce Stereo Instruments Properly**

- Export stereo sources (keys, pads, overheads) as stereo files.

8. **Zip & Send**

- Place all stems in a single folder, zip it, and send via WeTransfer, Dropbox, or your chosen file-sharing service.
- Clean, properly prepared stems ensure your mix is smooth, efficient, and sounds the best it possibly can