

What To Do With Your Files

First, after downloading your final masters, please ensure they are stored securely in at least two separate locations.

Main

HIGH DEFINITION - 96k 24-bit, 48k 24-bit or 44k 24-bit

These masters offer the ultimate listening experience for your music. They are designed to be your distributor's primary deliverables to all outlets.

Please use the highest-quality files you have for distribution whenever possible. These are usually 24-bit files that match your original mix sample rate. Almost all digital distributors will accept higher-resolution files, although a few still require a limit of 44k 16-bit files.

Caution! If you use Distrokid as your distributor (or any service with similar options), please do NOT select their “Loudness Normalisation” or “Optimisation” features. Doing so may cause your music to play unpredictably for listeners.

STANDARD DEFINITION - 44k 16bit

These masters are included for when you need to burn a CD at home or if your distributor only accepts SD files. 44k 16-bit WAV files are considered 'CD quality.'

Extra Info

My masters have a carefully controlled peak value to ensure flawless translation. The sample rate you provided for your mixed audio will be the highest sample rate master and 24-bit. A down-sampled version to 44k 16-bit will also be included. When sides or dynamic versions are unnecessary, these files can be forwarded to a vinyl-cutting engineer.

MP3

Included upon request.

Alt Edits

HIGH DEFINITION - 96k 24-bit, 48k 24-bit or 44k 24-bit

These masters are identical to the main master, except for using any alternative edits provided. They have undergone the same meticulous QC protocol.

ADM (Apple Digital Masters) (if requested)

HIGH DEFINITION - 96k 24-bit, 48k 24-bit or 44k 24-bit

These follow Apple's guidelines (for which I am an approved engineer) and must be used exclusively to qualify for the ADM Badge in Apple Music.

DDP Image (if requested)

This is intended for CD duplication. Most professional CD duplication facilities produce CDs using a DDP Image instead of individual files or a physical disc.

Vinyl Sides (if requested)

HIGH DEFINITION - 96k 24-bit, 48k 24-bit or 44k 24-bit

These will be sent to the pressing plant to cut your vinyl. Also included in the folder is a PDF information sheet (PQ-Sheet) for the cutting engineer, enabling them to know where the gaps are and where the tracks start and end. Dynamic and Loud versions are included in separate folders (when needed) to give the cutting engineer the best option for achieving the optimal sound for your vinyl from their process.

Contact

If you have any questions about best practices for uploading and sending your music to any destination, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'll be happy to help!

Call: (+44) 7926381982

Email: nicky@nickyhoward.co.uk

Many thanks,

Nicky