

Files Delivery Requirements

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- General -

- All audio files should be sent as 44.1 kHz, 24-bit WAVs. 48kHz is also acceptable, any higher sample-rate is not recommended.
- Map all the tempos in your songs in BPM and write it in a text file; if there are tempo changes you must provide a MIDI file containing the tempo-track and variations throughout the session.
- Export all files from the same point: at least one bar before the music starts.
- Ensure that none of your tracks are clipping, nor are too quiet.

- Drums -

- MIDI drums can be programmed directly on the DAW; in case you have written the drums on different software (such as Guitar Pro), you need to insert the MIDI of your drums in a DAW to transcribe it on a Drum Map.
- Be sure to program the drum dynamics to humanize the performance.
- Include a MIDI map (Drum Map) of the kit as a text file: shows the MIDI notes you have programmed and the corresponding drum part in the library you used. Example:

C1 – Kick
D1 – Snare
F1 – Floor Tom
G1 – Mid Tom
D2 – Hats (Closed)
E2 – Hats (Open)
...

- You can also send an audio export of the drum to be delivered together with the MIDI track.

If you want to record a **real drum**, the following requirements must be met:

- Record with a professional with experience in recording drums;
- Make sure the recording takes place in a **suitable environment**, no garage or improvised environments;
- Use a **professional kit** (with new, well-tuned drumheads) and **good microphones**;

- Check for **phase issues** and **edit the drums on grid** before exporting your WAVs;
- It's preferable to **provide MIDI along with your recorded drums**.

Top quality drum recording can be expensive, it's always preferable to work with well programmed drums over badly recorded real ones.

- Bass & Guitars -

- **The instruments must have been set up and tuned correctly.**
- **Record with fresh strings**, get 2-3 sets of guitar strings and at least 1 set of bass strings: make sure that the sound of the DI is always bright and change the strings as soon as you start to hear difference between the first and last takes.
- **Always check your tuning between takes**, especially after changing the strings.
- **Keep the tone knob fully open on guitars and bass.**
- **Always provide DI signals for every recorded track**, you can also send your processed signal (Kemper, AXE-FX, amp sims, real amp, etc.) but the DI signal is mandatory.
- **It's preferable to use a good quality D.I. Box** (for example Radial or Countryman) **before entering the sound card**, if you don't have a good quality D.I. Box, enter the sound card directly with the jack (remember to plug your instrument into the "Hi-Z "or "instrument" input).
- **If necessary, you can choose to use a MIDI bass**, simply send me the MIDI bass track and **we can choose the best sounding bass library for your project together.**

- Vocals -

- **Be sure to never clip the input of your sound card during recording.**
- **Use good gear and record in a suitable environment** (without reverb or aggressive reflections), remember to use the pop filter.
- **Provide separate tracks for clean and scream/growled vocals**, also split lead tracks from additional vocals or harmonies.
- The number of tracks to record is your production choice, you can contact me to talk about it together; **personally, I prefer to receive three tracks for lead vocals** (at least two) **and two tracks for additional vocals and harmonies**, always indicate the track with your **best/favorite performance**.

- Export & Track Naming -

- **Export tracks only when the song and all recordings are complete.**
- **It's essential that all the tracks of the same song start from the same point**, in order to avoid synchronization errors.
- **Export the MIDI so that**, once inserted into the DAW, **it starts at the right moment during the song**; if the song has metric or BPM changes it's necessary to export this information together with the MIDI track.
- **Disable any plugin, fx or process on the tracks you need to export, the tracks must be completely unprocessed**; If there are heavily effected tracks (for production reasons), please leave the FX on and send both the effected and the dry version.
- **Please check your session! Once you've exported everything as specified, load it into your DAW and make sure it all works as intended.**
- **Name each track correctly**, always indicate the instrument and the description of the track, using short abbreviations as in the example below:

Drm MIDI	<->	Drum MIDI track
Bass DI	<->	Bass, Direct Input
Gtr Rtm L DI	<->	Guitar Rhythm, panned to the left, DI
Gtr Rtm R DI	<->	Guitar Rhythm, panned to the right, DI
Gtr Add C Dist	<->	Additional Guitar, panned in the center, Distorted
Vox Lead 1	<->	Lead Vocals 1
Vox Lead 1 Dub	<->	Double of the Lead Vocals 1
Vox Harm L	<->	Vocal Harmonization, panned to the left
...		

- **Divide the tracks into correct folders:** create a main folder for the project named "*Band Name_Album/Single Name*", create as many subfolders as the songs and name them "*Song Number_Song Name*", insert in each subfolder the tracks of the respective songs, named according to the previous point. In the main folder **you will also have to insert the text file containing the bpm of the various songs and the Drum Map**, as indicated above. If you have pre-productions of the songs, you can also put them here in a special folder.

Send the files via WeTransfer/Dropbox/MediaFire to info@artifactsrecordings.com.

Thank you,
Dario