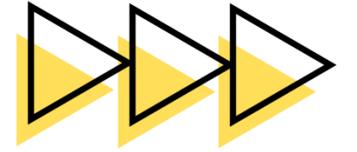# THE PRO MIXING CHECKLIST

12 Checkpoints Before You're Ready to Pull the Trigger and Move Onto Mastering

"Run through these steps before exporting your final mix. If you can't confidently answer YES to each one, that's where your mix needs attention."

BEFORE YOU TOUCH A FADER

1. ORGANISATION

☐ Are all your tracks clearly named — that means no Audio33_123bpm nonsense — coloured, and arranged in order of importance?

If NO: You're making mixing harder than it needs to be. A messy unorganised project kills objectivity and momentum.

THE FOUNDATION

2. ANCHOR

☐ Have you chosen an anchor track (most often kick or snare) and built your volume levels around it?

If NO: Without a reference point, you're balancing in the dark.

3. BALANCE

☐ At LOW volume, can you still hear every element that matters?

If NO: Your balance is being masked by volume. Loud hides problems.

4. PANNING

☐ Does every element have its own space in the stereo field (not just left/right, but intentional placement)?

If NO: You're likely stacking sounds on top of each other instead of spreading them.

TONE & CLARITY

5. FREQUENCY MASKING

☐ Can you hear your kick AND bass clearly at the same time, without one disappearing?

If NO: This is the #1 mix killer. Two sounds fighting for the same frequency space.

6. SUBTRACTIVE EQ

☐ Have you removed unnecessary frequencies BEFORE reaching for boosts?

If NO: You're adding mud, not clarity. Cut first, boost last — if at all.

DYNAMICS & MOVEMENT

7. DYNAMICS CONTROL

☐ Are there any sudden spikes or drops that cause the track level to be unstable?

If YES: Uncontrolled dynamics create listener fatigue and quiet masters.

8. AUTOMATION

☐ Does your mix breathe — with intentional changes that support the arrangement's arc?

If NO: Static mixes feel lifeless, even when technically "correct."

DEPTH & SPACE

9. COHESIVE SPACE

☐ Do your elements sound like they exist in the same room/space?

If NO: Random reverbs on individual tracks can create a disconnected, amateur sound.

10. MONO COMPATIBILITY

☐ Does your mix translate when summed to mono (no disappearing elements, no phase issues)?

If NO: Club systems, phones, and many speakers will expose this instantly.

FINAL REALITY CHECK

11. TRANSLATION

☐ Have you listened on at least 2 different systems (headphones, monitors, phone, car)?

If NO: Your mix only works in your room. That's not where people listen.

12. OBJECTIVITY

☐ Are you mixing what you HEAR — solving problems that are actually problems?

If you're not sure: This is the hardest skill in mixing — and the most valuable.

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

12/12 → You've got a solid mixing process. Trust it.

8–11 → You know the foundations. The gaps are where breakthroughs happen.

Under 8 → Your mixing process has gaps that will keep showing up in every track.

The checklist reveals **WHAT** *to fix. Knowing* **HOW** *is what separates stuck producers from confident ones.*

"Want Help Implementing This?"

Your mix is dialled. Now what about the rest of your career?

If you're a DJ, artist, or music producer who wants to build a sustainable music career – not just be visible, but actually convert that visibility into music releases, gig bookings, or income – that's where I can help.

I run 1-on-1 coaching programs helping electronic music producers:

- Find their unique sound
- Finish tracks (instead of endless loops)
- Build careers that last

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