



BLUEPRO MASTERING

World Class Professional Audio Mastering
HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

020 7272 0358

bookings@blueprostudios.com



The Essentials Of Audio Mastering

Mastering is the crucial, critical, and final creative step in the audio process and is what will bring your tracks depth, punch, clarity and higher perceptive volume. Your tracks will also have more consistency over multiple systems. In short, mastering delivers the final professional gloss to your recording.

The process can involve:

• Equalisation	• Noise Reduction	• Stereo Width Adjustment	• Addition of Ambience
• Dynamic Expansion	• Dynamic Compression	• De-Essing & De-Clicking	• Phase Correction
• Balance Correction	• Peak Limiting	• Track Sequencing	• Fades & Crossfades

The following is a simple guide made at the request of our clients to practices that will allow everybody to get the best results possible when mastering at Blue Pro Studios.

How To Prepare For Your Session

The Basics (Absolute Essentials)

- **Do not limit your mix.** If you have a sound that you wish to achieve as a result of the limiting then send or bring reference audio along with your tracks. We will be able to emulate this without distortion or other related drawbacks. We would also advise clients using any mix compression unless in the hands of an experienced mix engineer.
- **Do not normalize your mix.**
- **Allow 3db to 6db headroom** (*The additional signal available above the audio level before clipping or distortion occurs*) by turning down your master fader.

How To Save Your Audio (Accepted File Formats)

- WAV, SDII, AIFF up to 24 bit and 192khz. Recommended 24 bit / 96 kh.z.
- Please make sure your files are saved with the file extensions (e.g. .aif / .wav).
- We strongly advise against the use of any compressed file formats such as MP3 or MP4 (AAC).

How to Get Your Audio To Us (Accepted Transfer Mediums)

• CD-Rom	• DVD-Rom	• Blue Pro Studios FTP*	• YouSendIt.Com
• 1/4", 1/2" Analogue Tape	• Hard Drive / iPod	• DDP / .dmg / Toast Image	• USB Memory Stick

We also accept Audio CDRs, DAT & MiniDisc but would discourage their use. Audio CDRs and DAT due to error-related issues and MiniDisc due to its use of ATRAC compression.

*TO UPLOAD DIRECTLY TO THE STUDIO: FTP Client software required. Email or call with upload confirmation.
Server: <ftp://blueprostudios.net> Username: bluepro Password: dropbox.

If posting your job in please send to: Blue Pro Studios, Unit 11, 407-409 Hornsey Road, London, N19 4DX.
If using yousendit.com or a similar website please email: bookings@blueprostudios.com

If supplying mixes on 1/4" or 1/2" tape for attended sessions please let the studio know in advance so that the tape machine can be set up in advance.

Mastering: Important Extras

Get Your ISRC Codes!

ISRC is the Internationally Recognised Royalty Code. We highly recommend that all our clients use ISRC. The 10 digit code is encoded into each of your tracks at the mastering session and from then on any duplicated or replicated copy of that master will identify it as yours on playback. This will ensure a more reliable royalty return path as it allows radio stations and others to automatically log the play and the associated royalties due. You will receive royalties faster and will be able to prove ownership of the encoded recording. In the UK clients should become a member of PPL to be issued with ISRC codes. International clients should consult the IFPI.

Once a member you can use Catco to supply all the information on your recordings and apply for an MCPS licence. Catco is the record industry sound recording database, which allows PPL members to submit new release data electronically.

Do Not Press From An Audio CD! The Role of DDP

Many people do this but do not realise the risks they put their hard work through. Audio CDRs are prone to high error counts which you risk being replicated on your CD run.

At Blue Pro Studios we encourage the exclusive use of DDP images for CD pressing. DDP is used to create a disc image so that it can be accurately replicated. It includes files that contain the Audio, the Table of Contents and ISRC information for your CD. This file can easily be transferred online and using standard media without the high risk of errors posed by traditional real-time audio formats. For those of you who still use Exabyte, move on! Make sure you use a CD plant that accepts DDPi!

SEPARATION MASTERING

What Is Separation Mastering?

Multiple audio files are used instead of a single stereo file. For example a song supplied as 3 separations would consist of 3 audio files, e.g. drums, vocal, other instruments. Each should still contain all appropriate processing so that the mix can be perfectly reassembled.

What are the advantages?

- **More Control:** Make more specific adjustments in the mastering environment. e.g. adjusting the vocal will not have to be compromised due to the same frequency adjustment having unwanted results elsewhere.
- **More Clarity:** Offset balances in the separations of your mix to the specific processes your material will go through. Many compromises associated with traditional stereo mastering are reduced or removed altogether.
- **Higher Perceived Levels:** The sonic integrity of your original mix can be maintained better. With traditional stereo mastering there is more of an offset between volume and maintaining the clarity of mix.
- **Save Money:** Cut time spent in the recording studio by eliminating the need for multiple mix passes and last minute obsessions by leaving contentious issues as an extra separation. The adjustment can then be made at mastering in a true listening environment by the trained ear of an experienced mastering engineer.
- **Easy Retrospective adjustments:** A&Rs may make decisions that send you all the way back to the recording studio. With Separation Mastering you can have more control over such possible changes at the mastering stage.

Travel Information

BLUEPRO
STUDIOS

Address:

Unit 11, 407-409 Hornsey Road
London, N19 4DX



Tel: +44 (0)20 7272 0358

Email: bookings@blueprostudios.com

Web: www.blueprostudios.com

How do I get to the studio using public transport?

The nearest stations to the studio are Finsbury Park (Victoria Line, Piccadilly Line, Kings Cross Mainline, Moorgate Mainline), Caledonian Road (Piccadilly Line) and Archway (Northern Line).

From Finsbury Park Station:

When leaving the station take the Wells Terrace exit and get a 210 bus. Alight at the last stop on Hanley Road. Turn left into Hornsey Road and cross the road. On your right you will see large green gates with 407 in large red letters. Our entrance is immediately on the right as you walk through the gates.

From Caledonian Road Station:

Take the 91 bus from immediately outside the station and alight at the second stop on Hornsey Road. Walk a further 20 metres up the road and on your left you will see large green gates with 407 in large red letters. Our entrance is immediately on the right as you walk through the gates.

From Archway Station:

Leave the station and turn right to walk down Highgate Hill and onto Holloway Road. Walk down for approximately five minutes before taking a left onto Marlborough Road. At the end of the road turn right onto Hornsey Road. Walk a further 20 metres up the road and on your right you will see large green gates with 407 in large red letters. Our entrance is immediately on the right as you walk through the gates.

Equipment List



Analogue Dynamics Processors

TubeTech SMC-2BM MultiBand Compressor
(Mastering Version)

Maselec MEA-2 Mastering EQ

Maselec MLA-2 Mastering Compressor

Manley Massive Passive EQ (Mastering Version)

SSL X-Logic G Series Compressor

dbx 160a Compressor

dbx 1066 Compressor / Limiter / Gate

SPL Transient Designer

+

TC Electronic System 6000

(Mastering 6000 & Reverb 6000)



Hardware

Pro Tools HD3 Accel

Digidesign I92 I/O, Digidesign 96 I/O

Digidesign 96i I/O, Apple Mac G5



Monitoring

Main: Dynaudio Air 20 / Genelec I032A

Near Field: Yamaha NS10-M Studio*

*Powered By Omniphonics Footprint



Host Software

Pro Tools 7, Bias Peak 5, PMCD 3



Tape Machines

Tascam DA-30 MKII, HHB-850 CDR,

Tascam MD-350



Plug Ins (Not Full List)

Sonnox (Sony Oxford) Plug Ins

EQ (with GML 8200), Inflator, TransMod, Limiter

Waves Diamond Bundle, Waves SSL Bundle



Photo Gallery

