

Pre-mastering For Vinyl

Due to the physical limitations of cutting a vinyl record, premastering for vinyl involves some spec requirements that differ from the process of mastering for a CD or digital release. Properly addressing these spec requirements in the premastering stage allows the cutting engineer to cut an overall better sounding record. If you're interested in releasing your music on both vinyl and CD/digital formats, it's best to create a separate set of masters that meet the spec requirements for vinyl so your record sounds the best that it possibly can on both formats. Rates for these masters can be adjusted if both digital and vinyl formats are purchased together.

SPEC REQUIREMENTS

-- ***Bass frequency below about 150 Hz will need to be summed down to mono.*** Phase coherent bass allows for optimum playback quality without skipping or distortion and increases side time.

-- ***Treble treatment and attenuation if need be.*** Excessive high frequencies can cause distortion and overheating/destruction of the cutting head. Using a de-esser on the vocal during the mixing process will help ensure a more consistent and present high end.

-- ***Very low use of peak-limiting, if none at all.*** Not only will this help preserve the natural dynamic range of the recording, but it will give the cutting engineer more headroom to work with, resulting in a louder and more powerful master.

-- ***Proper track sequencing will help preserve clarity.*** Due to the geometrical curvature of a vinyl record, tracks cut into the inner

diameter of the record will lose a slight amount of high end treble and clarity. This is inevitable since the circumference is smaller towards the the center of the record and it's much harder to cut narrow grooves in that area. It is strongly suggested to sequence the track order of your album so that the more mellow, darker, or ballad type songs end up being cut in the center (i.e. track 5 or 10).

-- *Keeping the record length as short as possible to achieving loud levels.* A vinyl recording's volume is limited by the amount of physical space being used on each side. In other words, 4 songs on a side will sound louder and clearer than 5. Generally, an LP should be around 18 -20 minutes in total length, (16 min. being ideal and 24 min. being the max).

****** For more info on vinyl mastering, please contact me directly at (949) 545-4498.