

# THE ONLY 16 MIXING TIPS YOU'LL EVER NEED



## **TIP 1 - Get it right at the source**

If you are recording and mixing the same track, spend more time and effort on the recording phase. A high-quality mix is 80% the recording and 20% the mix.

## **TIP 2 - Get the balance right first**

Before you jump to EQ, compression etc. spend plenty of time (30 mins or more) adjusting the faders and getting a good static mix.

## **TIP 3 - Time is of the essence**

Mixing is a race against the clock. Don't waste time. Make the most of every second.

## **TIP 4 - Focus on the key elements**

Don't waste 30 minutes tweaking a shaker. Focus on the vocals, drums, lead guitar etc.

## **TIP 5 - Loop the loudest section of the song**

Get the mix right here first and then automate and check the rest of the song.

## **TIP 6 - Start with the bigger picture**

Leave the finer details to the end of the mix. After balancing, I address the mix buss and group busses (where most of my processing is) before individual channels.

## **TIP 7 - Avoid the solo button**

If you can't hear what you're doing, just turn the channel up instead of hitting solo.

## **TIP 8 - Have an intention behind every move**

Think about what you want to achieve before you adjust anything.

## **TIP 9 - Check your moves**

Always bypass to check that you've made an improvement (don't be afraid to start again if you haven't). Adjust the output so you aren't tricked by a change in volume.

## **TIP 10 - Use good reference tracks**

Choose a well produced track in a similar genre and constantly compare while mixing. You can use several references - one for vocals, one for drums etc.

## **TIP 11 - Mix in mono for the majority of the mix**

Flip to stereo at the end to sort your panning. This helps you to create separation with EQ and balancing rather than panning.

## **TIP 12 - Listen back on multiple speakers/headphones**

I like to constantly flick between my pair of large Yahamas, my single small Auratone style speaker and my open-back headphones. This helps to reveal flaws in your mix and prevent ear fatigue.

## **TIP 13 - Mix at a low volume**

The ideal volume for mixing is around casual speech level. You should be able to easily talk to somebody else in the room without raising your voice.

## **TIP 14 - Take regular breaks**

Ear fatigue is a mix killer.

## **TIP 15 - Assume that volume automation is needed**

It's rarely possible to get a perfect balance throughout the entire song without some volume automation.

## **TIP 16 - You don't need a load of expensive plugins**

You can get a great mix with stock plugins. It often helps to limit your options, too - so the less plugins you use the better.