

MIXING WORKFLOWS CHEAT SHEET



MIXING WORKFLOW

It's important to have a system in place when you're mixing. Having a consistent workflow will ensure that you always get the results you want in a timely manner! Check out these workflows to see which is the best for you.

SLOW FOCUS MIXING

The main idea behind this method is that you should start with the bigger picture, not with the small details.

Big Picture

- If you make mix decisions in solo, you don't have the context of the entire mix
- When you start with the big picture, everything has context
- You know how different aspects of the mix relate to one another
- You also can make big improvements early on, which really improves your confidence moving forward

How To

- Start by bringing up all of the faders and getting a rough balance
 - This is a very important step!
 - It can take 15-60 minutes depending on the song
- Next, move onto Backwards Mixing
 - Start by making adjustments on your master fader
 - After that, work on your group busses
 - Once those are all taken care of, you can then focus on smaller details on the individual channels

When To Use

- Great for rock, band music, jazz, etc
- Great when you want a really cohesive sound for the song

HUB AND SPOKE MIXING

With this approach you start with the most important part of the song.

Most Important

- Most of time this will be vocals
- Sometimes it could even be a lead guitar, melody, or drums

How To

- Start by making your most important element sound great first
- Do whatever you need to do to get that vocal or guitar part sounding perfect
- That's the hub
- The spokes are everything else
- Once you have the main track sounding great, bring up all the other faders and balance them around the most important track
- From there on, use the Backwards Mixing technique from Slow Focus Mixing

When To Use

- Great for pop music where vocals are most important
- Also can be great for electronic music where drums or synth melody are most important

ONE-BY-ONE MIXING

The last system starts like Hub and Spoke, with the most important part.

Main Idea

- The focus is on a few of the most important things
- Everything else is pushed to the side and not treated as importantly
- You lose context with this method so it's not the best one to use

How to

- Get the most important part sounding great
- Next bring tracks in one-by-one in order of importance
- This will give you time and space to analyze each track

When To Use

- Beginners
- Your first mix