MASTERING PREP GUIDE
Check List

Cavern Of Echoes

INSTRUCTIONS

First, read the associated article: **cavernofechoes.com/mastering-prep-guide/**

Then, read through every question on this list and check off every box **IF** the answer to the question is a definitive YES. Make sure every question that applies to you is check off before sending your tracks for mastering.

THE BASICS

☐ Have you decided the destination formats for your music? (Select all that apply)

    ☐ Digital / Streaming   ☐ Tape   ☐ Other: _____

    ☐ CD   ☐ Vinyl

☐ Have you decided if you are engaging in the loudness war?

☐ Have you picked at least one reference track to send to your mastering engineer?

YOUR MIX

☐ Does your mix sound similar to your main reference track?

☐ Does your mix sound balanced and clear in multiple listening environments?
(mix room, car, living room stereo)

☐ Have all instrument-specific issues been fixed on their respective individual tracks?

☐ Does your mix have a healthy low end? (Not too big, not too quiet)

☐ Does your mix pass the limiter test?
(Aggressive limiting on mastering bus. Read article for details)

☐ Is your mix free of clipping? (no clipping seen on the stereo output meter)

☐ Does your mix peak around -6 dBFS in the stereo output meter?

☐ Are your final mix files bounced to a high-resolution, uncompressed file format?
(Minimum 24 bit, 44.1 KHz or higher. Either .WAV or .AIF files only)

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THE MASTERING ENGINEER

☐ Have you picked a mastering engineer that is a good fit for your project?

☐ Did you get a quote that contains all the destination formats that you need?

☐ Have you communicated any mixing issues that can't be solved? (if applicable)

☐ Have you communicated with your mastering engineer whether or not you are engaging in the loudness war?

☐ Do you have an easy method of sending reference tracks to your mastering engineer? (YouTube link, Spotify link, Bandcamp Link, etc)

☐ Are your final mixes labeled in a logical and easy-to-follow fashion that includes the track number on the album?
(XX [Double-digit track number] - [SONG TITLE] - YYMMDD [BOUCE DATE]. wav)

☐ Did you get clear instruction on how to submit your files?

☐ Do you understand the steps in the process your mastering engineer will take? (timeline, file delivery method, etc)

Always remember the two golden rules of mastering:

GREAT MIXES PRODUCE GREAT MASTERS

and

LOUDER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER,
it's just louder…

Associated article: cavernofechoes.com/mastering-prep-guide/