

December 2024 (v2)

# Notes re 'Mixing'

## The Computer

- Hosts the digital audio workstation (DAW)
- Stores recorded tracks in the DAW
- Stores finished mixes - ie the stereo file product
- A substantial amount of the mix work takes place in the DAW
- Any work done in the DAW can be instantly recalled in the future

## Raw Tracks

- Central to my entire recording and mixing workflow is my analogue console
- I use a number of lovely pieces of analogue gear, mainly effects, different compressors, valve EQ's, and saturators (distortion)
- Thus a substantial amount of my mix work takes place in the analogue domain
- A mix can only be recalled in the future through accurate re-positioning of every control knob/fader/button involved.

## Why bother you with all this?

Since the mix occupies the analogue gear, once I have started your mix I cannot do much else in my studio unless the other job is quite simple in scope. So your mix occupies the studio until I have finished the mix and then you and I have discussed mix-notes (see below). Equally, if I am mixing more than one song for you, we cannot progress to the next song until the current one is signed off.

After sign-off, I photograph every analogue fader, knob and button involved. Using these pics and my written mix notes it is however possible to re-create a mix. We agree a small charge for the time that reconstruction takes.

Balanced against the impossibility of instant recall of mixes in a hybrid studio is firstly the great benefit of analogue workflow and sound and secondly the need to be decisive in what constitutes the finished mix/product!

**So we agree a mix fee per song in advance.** I produce Mix 1 of the song and send it to you. Mix 1 is properly finished, but it's essential that you have the opportunity to fine tune it if necessary which is where 'mix notes' come in. I encourage you to join me in the studio and we make any changes desired together.

The resulting Mix 2 is delivered and usually that is final and signed off. That's where the agreed mix fee ends! If you request further changes we agree a fee to cover the extra time spent to produce Mix 3, 4, etc as might be required.