

**Important notes re 'MIXING' – please read**

As with most of the music studios you have visited or seen pictures of, my studio is hybrid in nature meaning that I use a mixture of computer *and* analogue hardware.

- 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
    - – *assuming upcoming software incompatibilities don't scupper this!*
- The Analogue Hardware
  - Central to my entire recording and mixing workflow is my analogue console
  - I use a number of high end and lovely pieces of analogue gear, mainly effects, different compressors, valve EQ's, and saturators (distortion).
  - 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 so as to hone the product to your entire satisfaction. 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 as finished.

Once a mix is signed off, I photograph every piece of analogue gear involved in the mix. Using these pics and my written mix notes it is reasonably possible to re-create a mix at a later date. We don't really want to do that, but we could! We agree a small charge for the time that reconstruction takes, should the need arise.

Balanced against the impossibility of instant recall of mixes in a hybrid studio is the very great benefit of a) lovely sonics of analogue gear and b) the need to be decisive in what constitutes the finished mix/product. The endless tinkering possible with in-the-box (ie all within the DAW) mix workflows isn't good.

My standard procedure is that we agree a mix fee per song in advance and that covers: I work on a Mix1 of the song and send it to you. Mix1 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 attended mix notes, whereby you join me in the studio and we make any changes desired together. Remote mix notes are possible if you write and/or phone with clear instructions (including mm:ss references) as to the changes required.

After mix notes, Mix2 is delivered and usually that is final and signed off. That's where the agreed mix fee ends!

If then you request further changes we agree a fee to cover the extra time spent to produce Mix3, 4, etc as might be required.

Any questions?! Don't hesitate to contact Barnaby

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