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# Stem Creation Guide

How to prepare your stems for mastering

*Stem mastering is our specialty and the service we recommend for the best results.*

Please provide 6 to 8 grouped stems in **24-bit or 32-bit float WAV** at your session's native sample rate.

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## Step 1 — Your Final Stereo Mix

Provide us with a copy of your final stereo mix in **24-bit or 16-bit** at the native sample rate of your project.

If you have mixed into a chain on the master output, you can leave it on — this gives us a reference for how you had it sounding.

## Step 2 — Remove Level Processing Only

**Remove all limiting and master bus processing that was added purely for level.**

Any processing added to make the mix louder should come off. However, any EQ or stereo enhancement that is essential to the sound and vibe of the track should stay on.

## Step 3 — Render Your Stems

Without changing any levels, plugins, or mix automation, render each stem as a stereo file starting from the very beginning of the session so they all line up at the same start point.

Allow 1 or 2 bars of silence at the start and end of each stem so all transient information is captured and reverb tails play out fully.

Include any bus processing on the stems. If a synth part has been sent to a reverb bus, we want the synth with the reverb included.

## Step 4 — Suggested Stem Groupings

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6 to 8 grouped stems is the ideal number. The following grouping is recommended:

1	Kick
2	Bass
3	Clap / Snare
4	Other drums or percussion
5	Melodic elements
6	Vocals
7	Harmonic elements / FX / Textures
8	Misc

If you feel you need more than 8 stems, get in touch before rendering so we can work out the best approach together.

## Step 5 — Check Your Work

After rendering, open a new DAW session, import all stems and listen through. Make sure everything from your stereo mix is accounted for and sitting in the correct place.

## Step 6 — Submitting Your Files

Compress all stems together into a **single zip file**. Inside the zip include a PDF containing:

- Your name
- Track title
- BPM
- Any mastering notes
- Any reference tracks

Upload directly via:

<https://tinyurl.com/2pb9ej5s>

Or use your preferred file sharing service and send the link to [klaus@klaushill.com](mailto:klaus@klaushill.com)

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Mastered files will be returned as 24-bit / 44.1kHz unless other options are specified when submitting. · Turnaround times vary — if you have a deadline, let us know and we will do our best to accommodate.