

Neil B. Young's Top 3 Tips for Producers and Artists

Essential Advice Before Sending Tracks for Mixing

Welcome to *Neil B. Young's Top Tips for Producers and Artists*, a concise guide crafted to help you prepare your tracks for professional mixing. These essential tips will ensure your tracks are polished and ready, saving time and removing early hang-ups. For more resources, visit youngmixing.com.

1. Does the Vocal Stand on Its Own?

The lead vocal is the heart of your song. To evaluate its strength, strip the song down to just the lead vocal and a few core elements, like a single piano or acoustic guitar. Ask yourself: *Can the vocal stand on its own?* This test reveals critical details such as:

- Tuning sensitivity
- Comp edits
- Room noise
- Pops or clicks

If the vocal track passes this test, you're already miles ahead in achieving an excellent mix.

2. Plugins – Yes or No

Should you commit your plugin effects or provide dry tracks? After pouring so much effort into crafting the perfect sounds and vibe for your song, bypassing your plugins now could create an entirely different version of your track, setting an unfair starting point for the mix. My advice? Keep your plugins on when exporting tracks. However, I always request two versions of the lead vocal: one with all your processing intact and another stripped back to just tuning (if any). Also, consider routing your audio tracks through an aux send to your reverbs and exporting the reverb track separately from the direct audio. Your mixer will thank you for the extra flexibility!

3. Re-Import Your Session and Listen

Before sending your tracks to a mixer, always review them thoroughly. Whether you're using Pro Tools, Logic, or another DAW, exporting and re-importing your tracks into a new session is a crucial step. Follow this process:

1. Export all tracks intended for mixing.
2. Create a brand-new session.
3. Import your freshly exported tracks.
4. Listen carefully to the session.

This method helps you spot issues like blank tracks, unprinted effects, or missing elements. Your mixer will be listening to the session just as you are hearing it now. This will ensure no critical components are overlooked, preventing surprises when you review the first mix.

Get in Touch

Consider [booking me for a 1-hour consultation](http://youngmixing.com)! I offer personalized consultations where I'll listen to your rough mix, address your concerns, explore your unique vision, and create a plan to bring it to life. Best of all, the consultation fee is credited toward your project!

Neil B. Young's Mixing Guide

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