

## **Mastering a CD – After the songs are mixed**

### **What is the point of mastering?**

*Creating cohesion from song to song, file to file*

*Creating a consistent style or feel.*

*Making it warm, punchy, highlighting details*

*Making it sound good on all types of playback systems*

### **Mastering activities**

Song to Song: Normalizing levels, EQ consistency, balance the whole album / or set of albums / or set of files.

Adjusting overall compression and EQ

Remixing individual tracks if necessary

Adjusting the spacing on the CD

### **Often mixing happens at one studio, mastering at another!**

*Someone with experienced ears and practice.*

*Sometimes just fresh ears.*

### **Bringing your files to be mastered elsewhere?**

*Have a good mix to start with.*

*-Play your mix at home, in car, everywhere, first*

*Don't do lots of compression. Let them do that.*

*Bring an example of a project you like.*

*If unsure, bring two versions.*

## **Publishing a CD**

*Listen to the whole master before you send it.*

### **CD (red book) or CD-R (yellow book)**

**CD Red Book** necessary if sold in stores – lasts longer – less errors  
*more expensive – Glass master made. From it comes a mold.*

**CD-R** if sold off the stage etc. – more easily damaged – you can make it on your computer – easier to update versions

### **DDP File – Disc Description Protocol**

*New standard. Common way to upload disc master for duplication.*

*Four parts: Audio Masters (.DAT files) + Identifier DDPID + Stream descriptor DDPMS + more*

### **1630 Tape ¼" or ½"**

*Former standard still used. A few engineers still think it sounds better.*

*However in any case you should be able to submit a CD-R.*

### **Bar Code**

*Needed in order to sell your CD through most distributors and retailers since they use bar codes for inventory control and identification. \$500 for your own or use a fee system. All bar code numbers are issued by the Uniform Code Council.*

### **Licensing "Cover Music"**

*Harry Fox Agency (example) for licensing. About \$ .10 per cut per CD.*