

HOT TONIC MASTERING
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MASTER DELIVERY GUIDE

Thank you for trusting me with your music.

This document explains the file types included in your delivery and how to use them properly. If you need a format not included here, just reach out — I'm happy to provide it.

All final masters are located in folders labeled "**Renders**", with the bit depth and sample rate indicated in the folder name.

Example:

2448 Renders = 24-bit / 48kHz WAV files

INCLUDED FILE FORMATS

16/44.1 WAV (1644 Renders)

Standard CD format

Use for:

- CD manufacturing
- Distributors that require 16-bit / 44.1kHz files (CD BABY)

These files have been properly dithered during conversion.

24-bit WAV (2444 / 2448 Renders)

High-resolution masters

Use for:

- Digital distribution (DistroKid, TuneCore, etc.)
- Streaming platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, etc.)

If both 44.1kHz and 48kHz versions are included, use the version that matches your original recording session unless your distributor specifies otherwise.

High-Resolution WAV (2488 / 2496 / 24192)

24-bit / 88.2kHz, 96kHz, or 192kHz

These folders are only present if your project was originally recorded at a higher sample rate.

If included, use these for distribution instead of the 44.1kHz or 48kHz versions unless instructed otherwise by your distributor.

MP3 (320kbps)

High-quality promotional files

Use for:

- Email
- Client approvals
- Press kits
- Web previews

Artwork is embedded if provided.

Vinyl Masters

Delivered as:

- SIDE A
- SIDE B

24-bit WAV files at your project's native sample rate.

These versions are typically 4–5 dB lower in overall level and are optimized specifically for vinyl cutting.

Send these files and the included .pdf directly to your vinyl manufacturer unless they request a different format.

DDP (Disc Description Protocol)

This is the professional format required for CD replication.

Upload the provided zipped DDP file directly to your CD manufacturer.

DDP PREVIEW (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

Before manufacturing CDs, I highly recommend previewing your DDP.

Use the free Steinberg DDP Player:

https://o.steinberg.net/en/support/unsupported_software/ddp_player.html

To preview:

1. Unzip the DDP folder.
2. Drag the unzipped folder into the DDP Player.
3. Confirm:
 - Track order
 - Spacing between songs
 - Titles and spelling
 - ISRC codes
 - UPC (if applicable)
 - CD-Text

For accurate playback, set your system sample rate to **44.1kHz** when previewing.

LISTENING & FINAL APPROVAL

Before distribution or manufacturing, please:

- Listen to the masters in their entirety.
- Check on at least two trusted playback systems.

- Test on everyday listening devices (phone, earbuds, laptop).
- Listen in your car — often the most familiar real-world reference.

I perform detailed quality control on every project. However, final approval rests with you — the artist, producer, and label.

Please confirm that:

- Audio is correct
- Track order is correct
- Spacing feels intentional
- Metadata matches artwork and release details

Once approved and released, changes may require a new version and re-delivery.