

HOW TO MIX WITH HEADPHONES

(AND NOT SOUND LIKE GARBAGE)

USE GOOD HEADPHONES

Not all headphones are created equal. Aim for open-back or neutral studio headphones (like the Sennheiser HD600 or AKG K701). They offer better frequency balance and less ear fatigue.

KNOW YOUR HEADPHONES

Every model has its quirks. Listen to your favorite well-mixed songs through them. You'll learn how bass, mids, and highs actually sound on your setup.

REFERENCE CONSTANTLY

Use pro mixes in the same genre as your track. Toggle between your mix and the reference often. This keeps your ears grounded in reality.

DON'T TRUST THE LOW END

Headphones often hype or hide the bass. Use visual tools like spectrum analyzers to confirm what you're hearing. You can also test your mix later on speakers or a sub.

TAKE BREAKS

Headphones are intense for long sessions. Give your ears 10-15 min breaks every hour. Fresh ears = better decisions.

CHECK IN MONO

Headphones can make stereo imaging sound bigger than it really is. Collapse your mix to mono now and then to check phase and balance.

USE CROSSFEED PLUGINS

Real speakers let both ears hear both channels. Try plugins like Waves Nx, CanOpener or Goodhertz CanOpener Studio to simulate speaker listening.

FINAL CHECKS ON OTHER SYSTEMS

Headphones are your main tool—but not your only one. Test on phone, earbuds, car, cheap speakers... Make sure it holds up everywhere.

Mixing on headphones is totally possible—just be aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Be intentional, reference often, and trust your ears (and tools).