

## CHECKLIST: What makes an amateur mix

#1 - the mix is lacking variation, meaning that the song has the same music instrument or a repetitive pattern throughout the song, which is super annoying and leads to the listener skipping it to listen to someone else's song.

#2 the mix is lacking punch and clarity, meaning that your low end particularly bass and drums is either weak or there's too much of it that it kills other elements to be heard.

#3 the mix is noisy - for example lip smacks, clicks, hums, etc.

#4 mix has holes in the arrangement, meaning there are sections where nothing is happening or brought forward to hold the listeners attentions.

#5 mix has inconsistent levels, so this could be something like the vocals can't be clearly heard in some sections or a guitar is super loud during the bridge but too quite in the chorus sections.

#6 and lastly, the mix has dull and uninteresting sounds, meaning you might have used too many overused sounds. There is a difference between using something because it's hip, or because it's new and because everyone else is using it.

Main 5 elements to look out for are:

- Balance between musical instruments
- Frequency range, meaning we need to assign each instrument to its own frequency range, otherwise we won't be able to hear them clearly (frequency masking).
- Stereo field - where are your instruments placed?
- Dimension - adding some ambience to a song or musical element
- Interest - can you create something unique to make this mix special?

