

Eight steps to the perfect mix

Organize.

Group similar audio on individuals tracks. Label each.

Rough in levels.

Adjust the levels of your tracks so every voice is roughly the same volume.

Determine if you need EQ.

Check whether any of your tracks have tonal issues that can be fixed with equalization.

Determine if you need to use compression.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does the person speak evenly and consistently?
2. Does the speaker sound strong and present?
3. If you turn the listening level down halfway, can you understand every word?

Check edits and fades.

Check all your edits to ensure they are natural and not distracting.

Fine-tune levels.

Mix in sentences and phrases.

Balance ambience and music.

Use the [“rock and roll” mixing trick](#).

Listen to the mix!

Pay close attention to transitions and balances.



Scan me

Visit training.npr.org/audio/mixing for more audio story mixing tips and tricks.

Credit: Rob Byers, Minnesota Public Radio.