Mixing Checklist:

When your mix is nearly complete, use this checklist to ensure it meets industry standards and sounds its best:

Balance:

☐ Check the balance of individual tracks in the mix.
Ensure no instruments are overpowering others.

Panning:

☐ Review the panning positions of instruments for a balanced stereo image.
Use panning to create separation and depth.

Frequency Balance:

☐ Verify that no frequencies are overly dominant or lacking in the mix.
Use EQ to address any imbalances.

Dynamics Control:

☐ Apply compression and limiting to control dynamics.
Ensure consistency without over-compression.

Reverb and Delay:

☐ Evaluate the use of reverb and delay for spatial enhancement.
Adjust wet/dry mix to create depth without overwhelming the mix.

Automation:

☐ Implement automation for volume, panning, and effect parameters.
Enhance the mix's dynamics and transitions.

Clarity and Separation:

☐ Ensure each instrument has its sonic space in the mix.
Use EQ, panning, and level adjustments for separation.

Mono Compatibility:

☐ Check the mix in mono to ensure it translates well on all playback systems.
Address phase issues if detected.

Reference Listening:

☐ Compare the mix to reference tracks in a similar genre.
Match the tonal and dynamic qualities of professional mixes.

Check Phase:

☐ Review phase coherence between multi-miked instruments (e.g., drums).
Use phase inversion or alignment tools as needed.

Final EQ and Compression:

☐ Make subtle final EQ and compression adjustments to enhance the overall sound.
Avoid over-processing in the final stages.

Level Matching:

☐ Ensure consistent perceived loudness throughout the mix.
Use LUFS metering to match loudness levels if required.

Bounce or Export:

☐ Prepare the mix for final export or mastering.
Ensure proper file format, bit depth, and sample rate.

Listen on Multiple Systems:

☐ Listen to the mix on different playback devices (e.g., headphones, monitors, car stereo).
Make any necessary adjustments for different listening environments.

Feedback and Revision:

☐ Seek feedback from trusted ears or collaborators.
Make revisions based on feedback and personal evaluation.

Remember that mixing is both an art and a science,
and personal preferences play a significant role.
Use this checklist as a guide, but trust your ears and
creative instincts when making final decisions in the mixing process.