

NZ MIXED

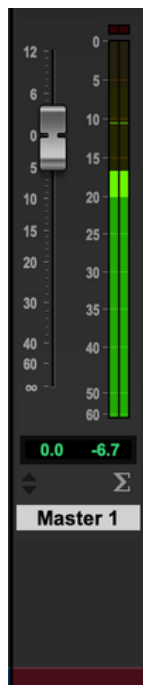
FREE MIX/MASTER CHEATSHEET

Overview

This is a basic reference sheet designed to give you the **KEY** steps to a pro sound every time. Refer to this sheet **ALWAYS** as you start your mix. This will make sure your mixes stay on point. This is what the pros do, so why wouldn't you?

*Save this PDF to your *files* on your phone so you can quickly refer to it or to your computer*

Gain Stage

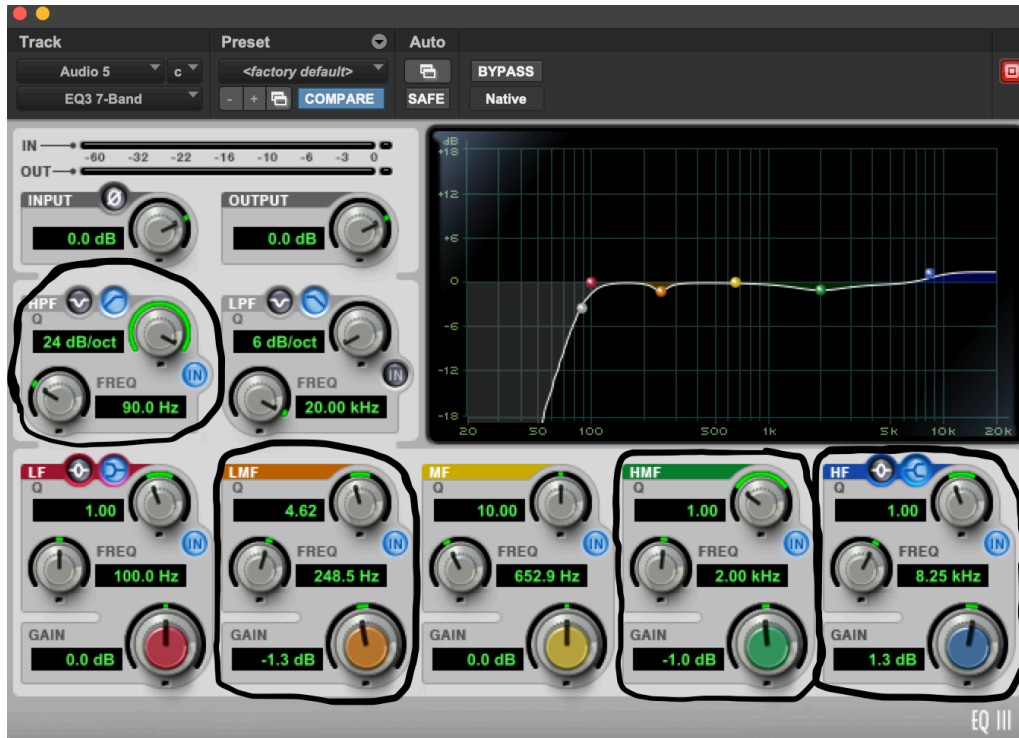


None of these steps mean anything without this step.

Make sure the loudest part of your entire song (Vocals and beat together) is peaking at about -6db on the master fader **FIRST**.

EQ -Vocals

(VERY IMPORTANT)



- Cut off all low frequencies. Anything below 90 Hz remove it.
- Reduce about 1.3 db at around 250 Hz
- Reduce 1.0 db at 2kHz
- Boost 1.3 db at 8.25 kHz

Every step is circled in the picture above, you can copy these exact settings as well as use this principles with any EQ plugin.

Compression -Vocals



- With Rap Vocals make sure the attack is fast and your release is somewhat fast
 - Your Ratio you want, 4:1
- If the volume of your vocals sound low after these steps, you can turn the gain up (only by a subtle amount)

Every step is circled in the picture above, you can copy these exact settings as well as use this principles with any compressor plugin.

Parallel Compression - Vocals

(*KEY INGREDIENT*)

If you've been looking at your screen for hours, adjusting a million settings, still wondering why your vocal just doesn't sound like the stars, I'm TELLING YOU, this is why!

PARALLEL COMPRESSION

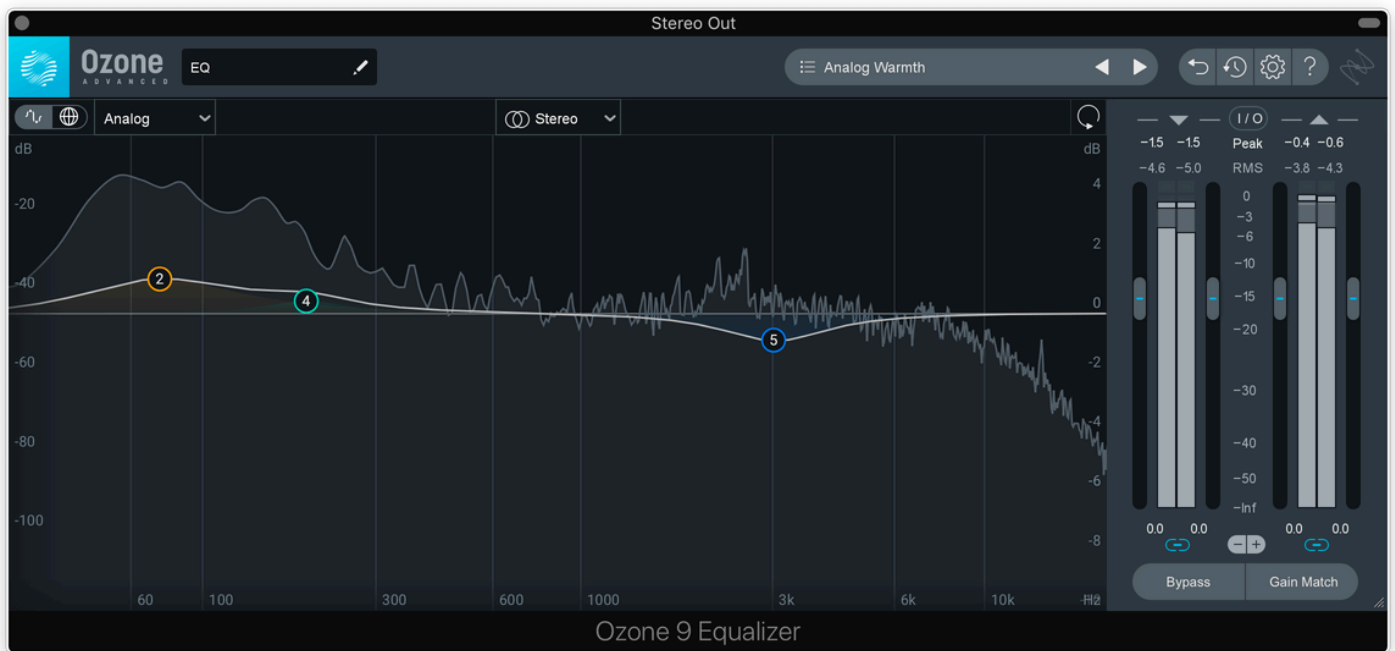
I won't dive into this too deeply because I want to key this guide short but here is a quick video on how to achieve this in any DAW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZYtDdgb to>

Mastering

There isn't much to Mastering BUT making the right decisions is key.

Once your Mix is exported, you want to do these steps to the entire song as a whole.

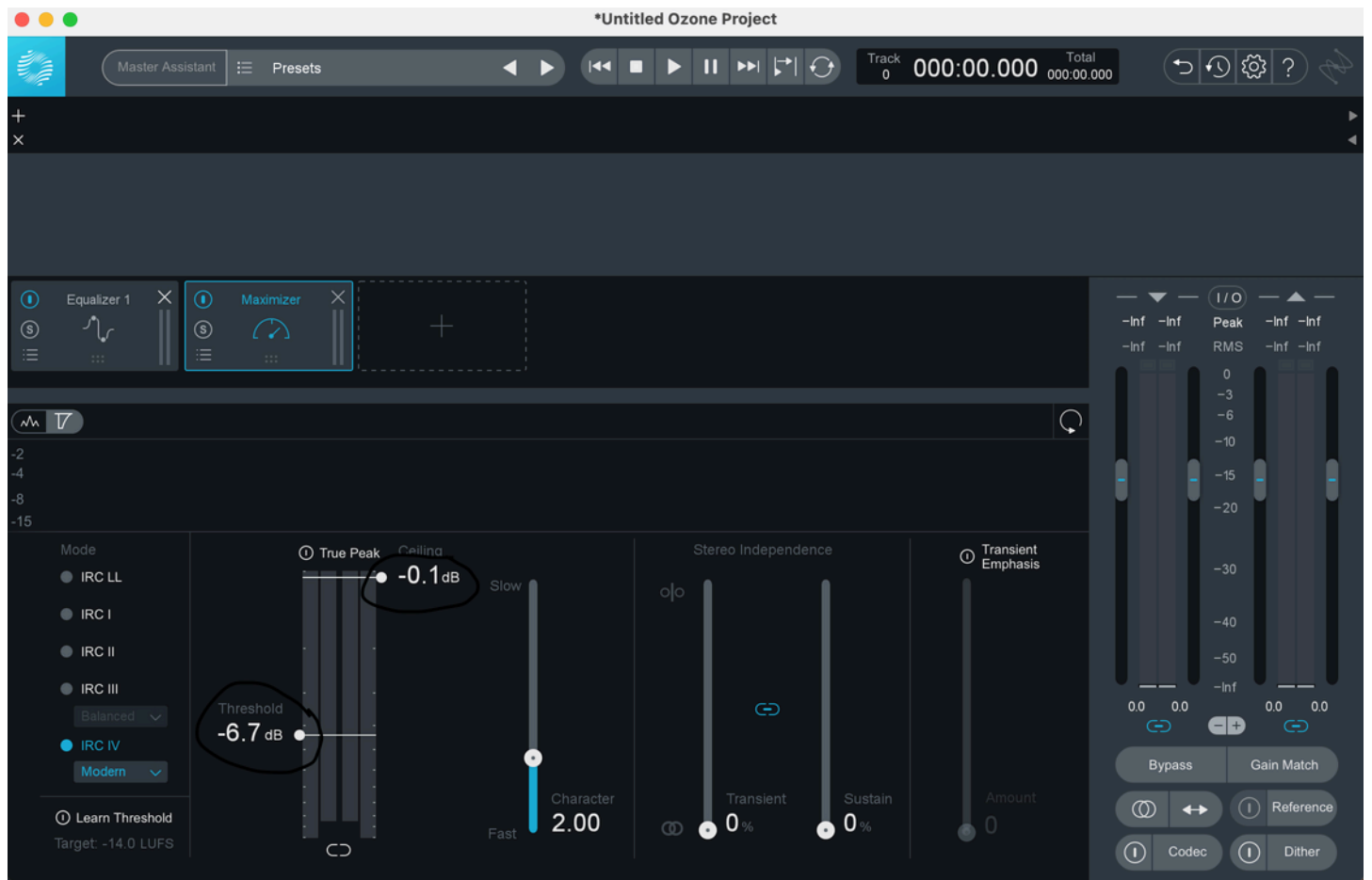


EQ.

- Boost by 0.7 db at 72 Hz
- Boost by 0.4 at 187 Hz
- Reduce by 0.4 db at 3k





Limiter

Probably the most important phase of Mastering, the limiter. This will give you the overall volume to your track



- Make sure your “Ceiling” is at -0.1 db, this will ensure your song won’t CLIP
- Turn the “Threshold” down until you can physically hear the volume increase.
Keep turning the threshold down until the volume is sounding louder, but the song doesn't sound too distorted, you have to find the sweet spot.

Keys to remember

	<i>EQ and compression alone can DRASTICALLY improve a vocal. It may seem like we didn't do a lot of steps but trust me, this goes a long way</i>
	<i>After EQ, compression and Parallel Compression your vocals should be in great shape</i>
	<i>Keep it simple with Mastering: EQ, Limiter</i>
	<i>There's so many steps and important secrets that I couldn't add to this cheat sheet, you can get these extra secrets in the 'Inside my mind' packet at nzmixed.com</i>