Mastering Follow-Up:

Please read and understand these items before submitting your master for replication.

Masters and Refs:

For most projects you will receive (1) PMCD (Pre-Mastered Compact Disc) and (1) Mastered Reference. The PMCD is your replication master and should be kept ABSOLUTELY PRISTINE! One fingerprint or spec of dust can render the master un-useable. We recommend that you DO NOT play this disc, only your Mastered Reference. When listening, you want to be sure the audio sounds exactly as you wish and that there are no dropouts or digital glitches. Also be sure to check the start ID of each track to be sure that no intros are clipped. Keep in mind that on tracks that have been "cross-faded" you my hear a bit of the audio from the previous track when you advance to the following track – this is related to the differing un-mute times on CD/DVD players and is un-avoidable. If the ID point is unacceptable – a change may resolve the issue – though certain players may clip the intro if the point is moved too close to the oncoming audio.

Your Mastered Reference will serve as both your master safety and your "running" master. This is an exact duplicate of your master and can be used to generate additional refs. This is the disc you'll want to throw in the car CD player on the way home to check out the day's work and enjoy!

CD Text:

Don't be alarmed when you put your CD into your computer at home and the track listing does not automatically show up as it does with your store bought discs, or gets mislabeled. While your CD could have CD Text encoded, software media players do not pull this information from the disc. Programs such as iTunes or Windows Media Player automatically matches the disc parameters with comparable information listed in online databases (such as Gracenote and AMG Lasso) that the software queries. Since we have just created a new CD you must submit your CD's information to these online databases to eliminate these issues for you and your fans. It is generally best to do this after you have received your replicated discs back from the manufacturer. For information on how to accomplish this please visit the links below.

Gracenote submittal information:
   http://www.gracenote.com/about/faqs/

How to use iTunes to submit your information to Gracenote:
   http://www.ehow.com/how_2064817_missing-cd-information-via-itunes.html

AMG Lasso
   http://allmusic.com
   One of the best resources for music fans on the Internet is the All Music Guide. To be sure your commercially available project is listed alongside everyone else, and disc information available for Windows Media Player – be sure to send a manufactured, bar-coded copy to All Music, along with a bio, credit listing and headshot. The submission address is below. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for listing to appear, the service is completely free.

   Product Submissions
   All Media Guide
   1168 Oak Valley Drive
   Ann Arbor, MI 48108
   USA

Changes and Revisions:

While we strive to get everything correct the first time, occasionally revisions are needed. These may be as simple as adjustment of the levels of songs, track spacing changes or song re-sequencing or as complex as remixing entire songs, mastering the new versions and editing them back into the album sequence. SMM bills changes to a master at 1/2 your initial hourly rate + materials. For example – if you're hourly rate for mastering was $300/hour and you needed 1 hour of changes, a new master and a new ref – the cost for the changes would be $150 (time) + the cost of the master and the ref. This allows you to make needed changes without incurring an excess of additional costs while ensuring you restrict changes to those that make the album better, not just different. Please note that master files are held on our system (and are therefore accessible for changes) for a period of (10) business days after the original mastering session. If changes are needed – be sure to alert your engineer WITHIN (10) business days of your original mastering date so that a touch-up session can be scheduled without incurring additional reloading charges. The current rate for reloading is $150 per disc, regardless of program length and includes re-loading and re-insertion of all PQ information.

Credits:

At SMM, we take pride in their work and we appreciate whenever a client feels we warrant a mention in the credit listing of their project. The preferred wording for this credit is '*Mastered by Stephen & Stephanie @ Stephen Marsh Mastering*' This can of course be edited or changed as you see fit. The correct spellings of our engineer's names are:

Stephen Marsh
Stephanie Villa

Manufacturing:

SMM proudly recommends Disc Makers for all of your manufacturing needs. We've had many clients continually get great service and product from Disc Makers over the years, and they can meet any of your requests at a reasonable cost. If you decide to do your manufacturing with Disc Makers, please let them know we referred you by providing our customer number CT02379422.

www.discmakers.com

Jason @ Regional Sales Office
3445 Cahuenga Blvd. West
Los Angeles, CA 90068-1329
Toll Free: 800-731-8009
Local: 323-876-1411

Referrals:

The process of mastering can have a dramatic effect on your project's overall sound and is therefore an important creative choice. It is because of this reality that mastering tends to be a "word of mouth" phenomenon and most of our business comes through referrals from clients just like you! We encourage you to tell your friends about SMM and hope you will add us to your Myspace page. While you are there, we would love to read your comments. We look forward to seeing you for the next project!

Myspace/MasterMarsh
Myspace/VillaMastering

Thanks for choosing Stephen Marsh Mastering
Be sure to send us a copy too!