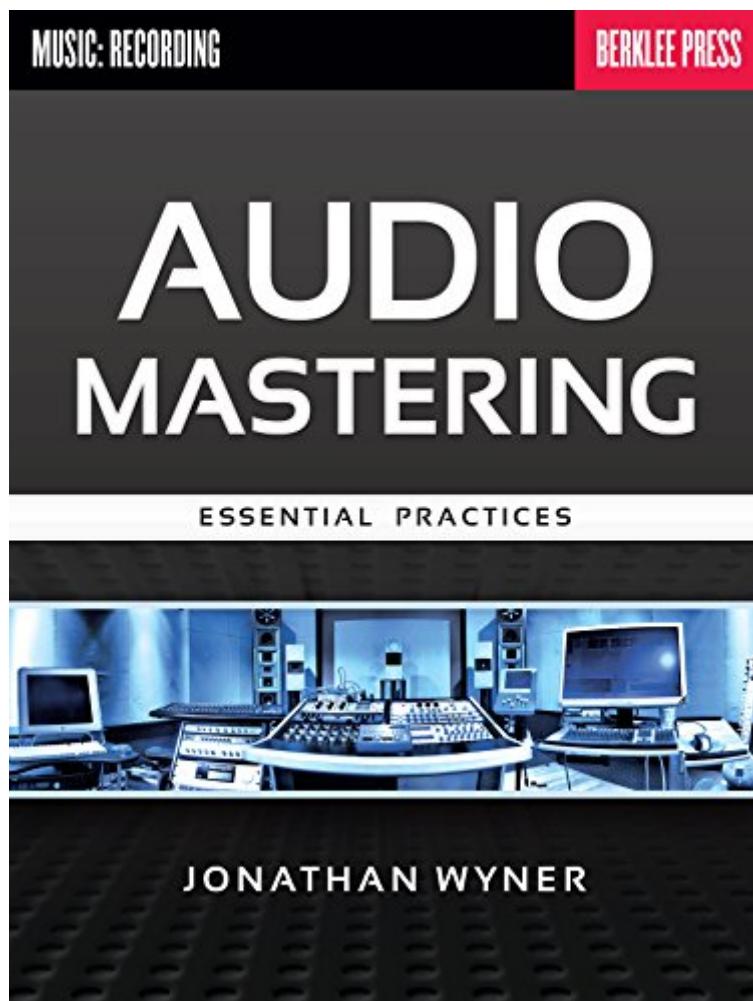


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# Audio Mastering - Essential Practices



## **Synopsis**

(Berklee Guide). Improve the sound of your recordings. Mastering is the art of optimizing recorded sound, finding the ideal volume levels and tonal quality, and insuring data integrity necessary to produce a professional-quality duplication and distribution-ready master. This book introduces the techniques and tools of audio mastering, suitable for commercial and home/project studio environments. Technical discussions address gear, studio setup, methodologies, goals, and other considerations for making tracks sound their best, individually and in relationship to other tracks. The accompanying recording has audio examples that support two detailed case studies where readers can follow a mastering engineer's manipulations step by step.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I am a life-long learner and constantly seek and research anything and everything audio. I have read many books on mixing and mastering, from the theoretical to the practical. This book is highly recommended as the foundation for the rest of your learning on the subject of mastering. Jonathan has plainly, clearly, and wittingly laid out everything from the basics of compression, limiting, and

equalization for mastering, all the way to the specific equipment and processes he uses! There is an included disc with examples as well! This is far from a plain old textbook. Jonathan is a "down to earth" and "cool" guy as well as mastering engineer. It showed in this book! This is stuff you can use to begin to learn mastering... or in my case, to use it to be an even better mix engineer too! It is an easy read, but still very informative! Very practical in nature. AWESOME!

The author approaches the subject as it should be approached: from the music perspective and from the "do no harm" perspective. Vastly different and vastly superior to the best known mastering book, in my opinion. If you haven't bought a mastering book yet, do yourself a big big favor and don't believe the hype for the other book - unless you want useless technical minutia to keep your mind off of the task at hand. And buy this book.

I've worked with Jonathan on a number of occasions and have always been impressed with his approach, which is to serve the music. While some engineers and producers may wish that this was a "How-To", instructional book to make their bedroom mixes sound more competitive, this is actually far more valuable: it sheds some light into the credo of the Mastering Engineer...do no harm. I offer mastering to my mixing clients who have small to no budgets after all is said and done. This book has opened my eyes in a number of ways and I feel confident that my next project (and all subsequent projects), whether mastering or even mixing, will maintain higher fidelity and, ultimately, serve the music and the creative process much more effectively and honestly. Congrats to Jonathan on this wonderful resource. Kudos.

This book is an outstanding introduction to mastering; concise and accessible to newer engineers, but also providing valuable insights that can help experienced engineers prepare their mixes for mastering, and even take on mastering tasks themselves. It sets itself apart from some of the other great books about mastering with two "Case Studies" that break down the process of mastering of a single tune, and then a series of songs where the continuity and transitions between them is an important consideration (like an EP or full-length record). In addition to carefully describing his process step-by-step, the author provides a CD with examples of every step, so you can actually hear and compare every action and processing change he makes. Such a great resource that takes the recommendations off the page and lets us really engage with the process!

It gives you a good overview of several aspects, both ethical and technical, of audio mastering.

Those who are really interested in this fascinating topic, need some further reading afterwards.

Helps me to understand how mixdown merges with mastering. Mastering is really hard for my husband. He uses Protools. He records and mixes down and then send files to mastering studio. The Mastering studio also helped to refine and add harmonies to the vocals. Our daughter has a production contract as a synth pop vocalist. My husband tried mastering, but it just did not sound right. The bass drum was one of the hardest sounds to make sound right when converting from Protools files to MP3 format. I think the bass drums and vocals are two reasons to use a recording engineer and professional recording studio. This book is informative. After reading it, my husband gained respect for mastering studios and understands he needs to pay to master the sound tracks to sound professional.

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