

EXP__ Workshop 2

How to remix remotely

What makes a good remix?

- Opinions differ, but I consider a good remix to be an interesting interpretation of the original song. Same, but different. In some ways making it better or newer, extending the song's lifetime
- Why do we need a remix?
 - To extend the song's life and give it another push

Getting your favourite artist to remix your song

- Getting in touch
 - There are a number of ways. Depending on the level of the artist you're trying to reach. Find out the manager details and try to go through them. Contact forms on their website. Some artist have booking / enquiries emails of their managers in their social media profile. If they're very famous, simply googling who their management also works. If all else fails, tweeting / DMing them to ask for their manager details is also quite effective. They'll DM / tweet back the details.
 - Some artists manage themselves, in that case contacting them directly also works.
 - Be polite and provide PROPER information. Do not be the guy that goes "Yo, plz rmx this". You'll get ignored. And don't be the guy that provides their entire life story and philosophy in an email. Simply asking "Hi, my name is ____ and I'm a _____. I love your music and would love for you to remix a song for an upcoming release. Do you have a manager I could get in touch with?
Thank you so much. Looking forward to hearing from you."

Money Talk

- What kind of offer is fair?

- For indie remixes a one off fee is fairly common, but you can expect a publishing split of 50% or 25% etc depending on how many people are involved in the remix... singers, labels etc. One off fees are common as it was often too much work to keep track of quarterly sales splits. Your manager's fees etc always come out of your share.
- Recently distributors like Distrokid (or Tunecore in Japan) have introduced a split function which makes collaboration and remixes between indie artists very easy to set up and they can be quite profitable. Simply input emails and percentages and you're done. Money will accumulate in your accounts.
- Quite often one off fees appear more appealing as you get your money right away and do not need to worry about it after, but the SMART artist understands that in modern era songs are like stock market shares and the more splits and music you have out in the world, the more likely one of them will get traction and become your golden ticket. Saying that, if you manage yourself you need to be smart and make smart bets on your music. If you're working with someone / with something that is VERY unlikely to get loved, asking for a fee is smart. At the same time if you're remixing or getting remixed by a HUGE artist, it's smart to work out a split. Be aware that with BIG artists a split AND a fee also common. Always try to balance it out, the larger the fee the smaller their % is and vice versa.

Preparing Files

- Multi tracks or stems?
 - It depends on the song. If you have 20 tracks of chopped up parts that form one whole, it makes sense to simply export that as one file. Vocals, it makes sense to provide them in multi tracks or at least separate the main vocal from background vocal. Drums should be separate. Main synths / prominent instruments should also be separate. Effects, noises, swooshes etc can be in one file.
 - Saying that I'm a FAN of multi tracks. I love getting the whole session and keeping only the main bits and working from there.
 - Some artists often provide only one or two files, like the main vocal or main 2-3 instruments and sometimes wouldn't tell you the tempo or key

of the song and that's a signal that they want you to reinvent these parts.

- Should you provide MIDI?
 - You don't have to. But if you SPECIFICALLY want them to keep your chords or melodies, you can and I think the artists will understand that you want to use it
- Should I remove mastering effects?
 - Yes. The song will be mixed again. It makes sense to keep the files in premaster conditions as they'll be mixed again by the remixer.
- What else?
 - Song tempo should be in the folder name
 - Song key should also be in the folder name
 - Any specific requests if you have something in particular in mind that the remixer might have done previously
- Sending data.
 - Dropbox works. Or any other one of them online storage solutions. I HATE it when people send me files via some free file services with lots of pop-ups and banners. It's bad vibes. Get dropbox or google drive or something. haha

Remix no-nos

These are not rules but my personal opinions, but I think my opinion is fairly common among artists

- You should always try to pick a part that speaks to the original song. Main melodic element, main vocal or whatever defines that song and flip it in your own way
- I've met a few artists who were bragging about how they only used a hi-hat from the original data. I've done that too when I was a kid and I felt like a rebel, but in retrospect when that remix did hit, part of me regretted that I've given away a whole song... because using only the hi-hat isn't a remix, it's basically a different song.

- Secondly, if you only use a hi-hat or similar it signals the artist that you don't actually like song. In which case, why did you agree to remix it? I think it makes sense to only remix what you either love or feel you can make something amazing with.

Remixing famous songs legally

- You CAN remix a song without permission, but you CAN'T publish it on most streaming platforms. They can get taken down, your account banned or even get sued if it hits. HOWEVER, it's a common promotion tool. Depending on the song contract, You Tube will NOT take down your remix, they will simply not monetise it to your account, sending the money to the original copyright holder. Depending on the country your video might be muted.
- Even though you can't remix a song without permission... Some songs that were originally created illegally blow up on sites without tracking algorithms and go on to become worldwide hits. Good example is Imanbek's remix of Saint John's - Roses which got about a billion more hits than the original. We live in an interesting time where attention is literally MONEY, so they can sue you for doing a remix, but if there's a potential behind your track it can be your golden ticket too.

Remixing Legally

- If the artist isn't too famous, you can always try to contact them and ask they might be interested in getting a remix from you
- Tracklib provides many released songs that you can sample or remix legally and can purchase a license to do that straight from their site. It can be anything between \$50 - \$1500 and some split % for some classic songs.