

## 8 Indicators Your Mix Is Complete

Taken from The Mixing Engineer's Handbook, Bobby Owsinski

1. **The groove of the song is solid.** The pulse of the song is strong and undeniable.
2. **You can distinctly hear every mix element.** Although some mix elements, such as pads, are sometimes meant to blend seamlessly into the track, most mix elements should be clearly heard.
3. **Every lyric and every note of every line or solo can be heard.** You don't want a single note buried. It all has to be crystal clear. Use your automation as needed.
4. **The mix has punch.** The relationship between the bass and drums is in the right proportion and works well together to give the song a solid foundation.
5. **The mix has a focal point.** What the most important element of the song? Make sure it's obvious to the listener.
6. **The mix has contrast.** If you have too much of the same effect on everything, the mix can sound washed out. Likewise, if your mix has the same intensity throughout, it can be boring to the listener. You need to have contrast between different elements, from dry to wet, from intense to less intense, to give the mix depth.
7. **All noises and glitches are eliminated.** This includes count-offs, singer's breaths that seem out of place or predominant because of vocal compression, amp noise on guitar tracks before and after the guitar is playing, bad-sounding edits, and anything that might take the listener's attention away from the track.
8. **You can play your mix against songs that you love, and it holds up.** This is perhaps the ultimate test.