



Technical Guidelines

Introduction

Following are guidelines for the formats and machines we use in our studios:

In New Zealand we work to the **PAL 25f** standard. We are happy to organise standards conversion with prior notice.

We run **Macintosh based Pro Tools Suites** with non-linear video capabilities, and also a Dubbing Suite with Pro Tools and various audio conversion software packages.

It is preferable to receive any material prior to the session so we can check/load vision and OMF's. We prefer to digitise vision prior to the booking as it is much faster to work with, and this also limits tape wear on masters.

We can facilitate vision transfers should these be required.

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Tape Machines

Digital Betacam Betacam SP DVCAM/MiniDV

If an audio tracklay is provided on tape for off-laying, please checkerboard clips with suitable handles.

VHS

The lack of timecode and lower quality of the VHS format makes it unsuitable for professional use. If you are providing VHS, if possible, put timecode in picture and at least 30" pre-roll before vision and 30" between each segment.

We can provide VHS dubs for reference.

DAT

If you are supplying audio on DAT, accurate sound logs are a great time saver.

OMF Specs and Preferred Layouts

OMF Type 2

AIFC files

Embedded Media

48khz is preferred if master is Digital Betacam.

25fps Pal

2 pip @ head of programme

T/C to match master picture code

Volume breakpoint information is not required. Please delete pan & breakpoint info.

Following is our preferred track layout:

- 1+2 100% PTC's / main sync material
- 3+4 Atmos / Background / Fill etc / SFX
- 5+6 Stereo Music or Stereo SFX
- 7+8 Stereo Music or Stereo SFX
 - 9 Guide V/O's
 - 10 Other Material

OMF's can be split if track count is a limiting factor, eg. tracks 1 - 8 on one OMF, 9 - 16 on second OMF.

If the OMF is bigger than the available media (CDROM), it can be split into sections. It is preferable that these are in black breaks or that there is small overlap for sync reference between the sections.

OMF's can be provided on CDR, DVD ROM, Firewire HD's and USB 2 Flash Drives.

Digitised/Non-linear Vision Specifications

**Digitised/Digital Vision provided on CDR, DVDROM, FW HD
or Flash Drive DV-PAL @ 720x576/384x288**

We can convert from most formats, such as mpeg, however this can be a longer than real time operation, so would really only suit short length material such as television commercials.

Preferred Linear Vision Layout

With all material it is most efficient that the first frame of vision of the program/commercial starts at a logical Time code.

For example:

Programs start @ 01:00:00:00
Commercials @ 00:01:30:00

And then following with next logical round Time code

TVC 1 @ 00:01:30:00
TVC 2 @ 00:02:30:00
TVC 3 @ 00:03:30:00 (for example)

Guide audio on tape in the form of a bash/guide mix is advisable when checking for sync etc.

ISDN Connections

We have an ISDN codec to allow for high quality connections with compatible studios anywhere in the world.

Our unit is a CDQ Prima 120 and provides a wide range of compatibility. It conforms to:

CCS MUSICAM, ISO/MPEG Layer II, ISO/MPEG Layer III and G.722.

We recommend a test connection before bookings to ensure the ISDN codecs at both ends are compatible.

We can recommend a number of studios throughout the world that we have previously worked with and can ensure a good connection.

Our ISDN Number is **+64 9 366 7018** for both lines.

With prior notice, we can provide APTX/Milano system, if required.

Output Options

We can provide audio in the following formats:

Digital Betacam, Betacam SP, DVCam (for audio layback to DVCam, the tape must be 2 channel 48kHz DVCam Format).

T/C DAT, CDROM or DVDROM

Most commonly we provide Stereo/Mono 16bit, 48kHz/44.1kHz, AIF, .WAV and .BWF. However, we can provide virtually any audio file type.

If you're recording voice over for multimedia or IVR projects, we will need more detailed information on file type you require at end of session. For example, these types could be 8bit/8kHz/.wav/pcm encoding or u-law 18kHz 8bit along with numbered or named prompts on a script. If we are editing the recording into files, we prefer to email test files to confirm that we can provide the format your equipment requires prior to the session.

We can also supply OMFs or Pro Tools sessions if required.

Audio CD

Audio on a CD, to play in a standard CD Player.

VHS

We can provide VHS dubs at any stage for reference.

E-mail/FTP

We can transfer audio files via email or to an FTP server you specify. (we can provide an FTP server if required)

Commonly we provide mp3's for reference via email.

**Please feel free to contact
us before your session if
you have any questions**

phone +64 9 366-6286

facsimile +64 9 366-6287

isdn +64 9 366-7018

e-mail info@aucklandaudio.co.nz

website www.aucklandaudio.co.nz

address 55 Anzac Ave. 1st Floor
P.O. Box 90 192 Auckland Mail Centre
New Zealand