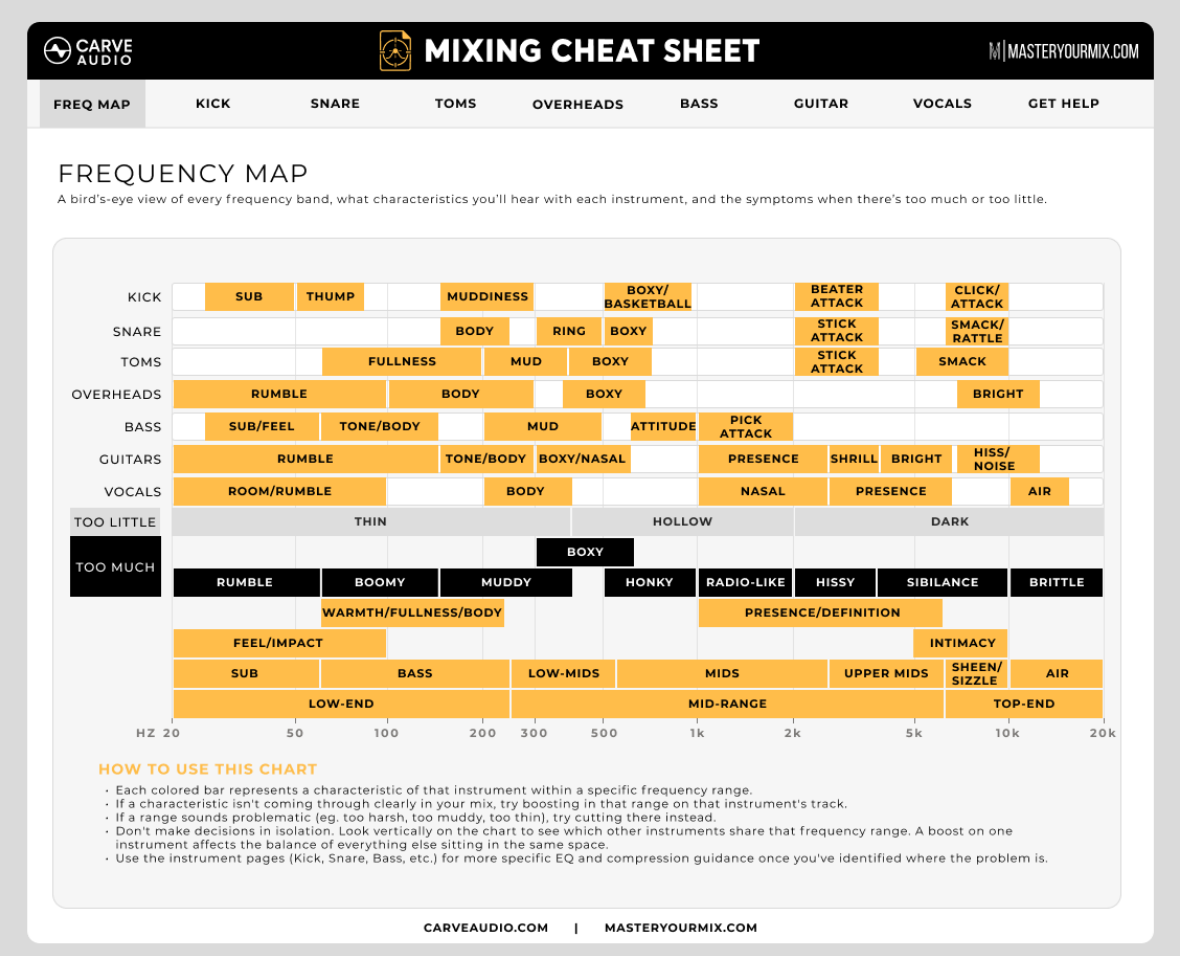
CARVE AUDIO

MIXING CHEAT SHEET



Welcome to Mixing Cheat Sheet

Mixing Cheat Sheet is a free plugin designed to help you make better mix decisions inside your DAW. Instead of digging through PDFs, charts, or random notes while you mix, you can open the plugin right in your session and quickly reference important frequency ranges, instrument-specific tips, and listening cues.

The goal is simple:

Help you understand what to listen for, make better decisions, and feel more confident while you mix.

Main Pages

Mixing Cheat Sheet includes multiple pages you can select depending on what you're working on.

Frequency Map

The **Frequency Map** gives you a broad overview of important frequency ranges across a mix.

This page is designed to help you quickly identify where certain sounds and problems may live.

For example, if something feels:

- muddy
- dull
- harsh
- fizzy
- boomy
- thin
- boxy
- airy

You can look at the Frequency Map to find the frequency range that may be contributing to that sound.

This can help you narrow down where to listen before reaching for an EQ, compressor, or other processing.

The Frequency Map is also where you can use **Solo Mode** to isolate frequency regions and hear what those ranges actually sound like in your mix.

Individual Track Pages

In addition to the Frequency Map, Mixing Cheat Sheet includes individual track pages for specific instruments and sources.

These pages give you more focused guidance for common mix decisions.

Depending on the selected track page, you'll find helpful information for things like:

- important frequency ranges
- EQ decisions
- compression ideas
- common problem areas
- mix tips

These pages are not meant to be strict rules.

Every song is different, and every sound needs to be judged in context.

Instead, use these pages as a guide to help you understand what you're hearing and decide what your track actually needs.

For example:

If a vocal feels dull, you can open the vocal page and look for areas related to clarity, presence, and air.

If guitars feel fizzy, you can open the guitar page and look for frequency areas that may be causing harshness or fizz.

If the bass feels boomy, you can use the bass page to help identify where the low-end buildup might be happening.

The goal is to connect what you hear to the decisions you make.

Using Solo Mode

Solo Mode is one of the most useful features in Mixing Cheat Sheet.

It allows you to isolate different frequency ranges so you can hear what they actually sound like in your mix.

How Solo Mode Works

When you are on the **Frequency Map** page, clicking on any frequency region will immediately solo that frequency range.

This lets you hear that specific area of the sound in isolation.

For example, you can click a range associated with mud, fizz, presence, or air and hear what that part of the mix is doing.

This is helpful because it trains your ears to connect the words on the Frequency Map to the actual sound of those frequency ranges.

Instead of just reading that a certain range can sound muddy, harsh, fizzy, or airy, you can actually hear that range in context.

By default, solo mode is enabled, though no frequencies will be isolated until you select one.

Turning Solo Mode Off

To disable the active soloed frequency range, click the **Reset** button in the top right corner of the plugin.

This will clear the soloed range and return the plugin to its normal state.

A helpful workflow is:

1. Open the Frequency Map
2. Click a frequency range to solo it
3. Listen to what that range is doing

4. Click **Reset**
5. Listen to the full mix again

After soloing a frequency range, your ear may stay more focused on that area when you return to the full mix.

This can make it easier to tell whether that range is helping the mix or causing a problem.

Solo Mode On/Off

Mixing Cheat Sheet also includes a **Solo Mode On/Off** option.

This controls whether clicking frequency regions on the Frequency Map will isolate the selected frequency range.

Solo Mode On

When Solo Mode is on, clicking a frequency region will solo that frequency range.

Use this when you want to hear a specific area of the mix in isolation.

Solo Mode Off

When Solo Mode is off, you can still click around the Frequency Map without isolating the selected frequency range.

This is useful if you want to explore the Frequency Map visually without changing what you're hearing.

For example, you may want to click through different frequency regions to read the descriptions, study the layout, or use the map as a reference while listening to the full mix.

Recommended Workflow

Here's a simple way to use Mixing Cheat Sheet during a mix.

Step 1: Identify the Problem

Start by listening to your mix or track and asking:

What feels off?

Maybe the vocal feels dull.

Maybe the guitars feel shrill.

Maybe the bass has a lot of rumble.

Maybe the snare does not have enough attack.

Even if you can only describe the problem loosely, that's enough to get started.

Step 2: Open the Frequency Map

Open Mixing Cheat Sheet and go to the **Frequency Map**.

Look for the word or description that matches what you're hearing.

This helps you find the frequency range where the issue may be happening.

Step 3: Solo the Frequency Range

With Solo Mode on, click the frequency range you want to hear.

Listen to what that area is doing in your mix.

Ask yourself:

- Is this where the problem is coming from?
- Is this range helping the track?
- Is this range too strong?
- Is this range missing?
- Does this area need attention?

Step 4: Reset and Listen Again

Click the **Reset** button in the top right corner of the plugin to disable the soloed range.

Then listen to the full mix again.

This helps you judge the frequency range in context, which is where mix decisions really matter.

Step 5: Use the Track Pages for More Detail

If you want more guidance, open the individual track page for the instrument you're working on.

Use the EQ, compression, and mix tips as a starting point.

Then make your decision based on what the song actually needs.

Important Reminder

Mixing Cheat Sheet is a guide, not a rulebook.

It will not tell you to always cut one frequency or always boost another.

That's because mixing is context-dependent.

The same frequency range that causes a problem in one mix may be exactly what another mix needs.

Use Mixing Cheat Sheet to help you listen more clearly, identify what needs attention, and make better decisions with confidence.

Want Personalized Help With Your Mixes?

Mixing Cheat Sheet can help you understand what to listen for and make better decisions while you mix.

But sometimes, the fastest way to improve is to get personalized feedback on your actual songs.

That's where **Amplitude** can help.

Amplitude is Mike Indovina's coaching program for musicians with home studios who want help improving their mixes, building better workflows, and getting more confident with the decisions they make in their own studio.

Inside Amplitude, you can get personalized one-on-one help with your mixes so you're not left guessing what to fix or what to focus on next.

If you want help figuring out what's holding your mixes back, you can book a free Production Clarity Call here:

www.masteryourmix.com/coaching

On the call, we'll talk through your current process, look at where you may need the most help, and give you a clearer sense of direction.

If it seems like Amplitude could be a good fit, we can talk about that too.