

FAQ

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1. GETTING IN TOUCH

1.1. I have recorded some songs, but how do I send them to Will?

- You can send me MP3s of your music to will@drumtracksdirect.co.uk.
- Alternatively, you can upload your MP3s or WAVs to your personal website or an online storage website. Please send me links to the files via email.
- If you use Dropbox, please invite me to a shared folder, using the address will@drumtracksdirect.co.uk.
- Please make sure that your demos are of a satisfactory recording standard. Recording quality isn't a problem
- Please ensure that your songs are actually at a point where the bare bones (vocal melody, strumming patterns, basslines) are finished and whenever possible, please record to a click or programmed drums!
- Lastly, let me know if your recordings are final (and the drums are the last thing to go in) or if you will be rerecording the music over the drums.

1.2. I used programmed drums on my songs, does Will need to hear them?

- I need to hear the programmed drums, if you would like them to be the starting block from which I will record the live drums.
- Please send me bouncedowns of each of your songs *with* and *without* the programmed drums.

1.3. I recorded my songs to a click, should I include the click in my bouncedowns?

- If you recorded your demo to a click, you may send me bouncedowns *with* and *without* the click.
- If you know the tempos of your songs, please inform me of them.

1.4. What gear does Will use to record?

Drums

Kit - Gretsch Renown (maple, 12", 16", 22")
Snares – Pearl (maple, brass), Mapex (steel), Sonor (birch)
Cymbals – Sabian (HHX, HH, AAX), Meinl (Classics Custom)
Pedals – DW 5000 (single & double)
Hardware – Premier, Pearl, Gibraltar
Percussion – Tambourines, cowbells, Hat Trick, shaker

Hardware

DAW – Logic 9
Preamps – Mackie Onyx Blackbird x2

Microphones

AKG D112
AKG D40 x3
AKG C430 x2
Oktava MK012 x2
Shure SM87
Shure SM57

1.5. Which genres does Will play?

- I am experienced at playing most kinds of popular guitar music. I specialise in rock, indie and punk. I also play acoustic and ambient music. I do not play extreme metal, Latin or jazz.
- I will notify you immediately after listening to your demos if I feel I am not able to play the style which your music requires.

2. THE RECORDING PROCESS

2.1. How do I explain what I would like Will to play?

- For songs which you have recorded with programmed drums, please be very specific about if you would like me to a) copy the programmed drums, b) if you would like me to improve the programmed drums or c) if you would like me to come up with something by myself. Comments such as "just make it better" or "play as you see fit" are too vague, try and be specific.
- I understand that it can be hard to convey your ideas for the drum tracks through text, especially if you aren't a drummer. One of the best things you can do is to give me as many references as possible to other bands and drummers who play in the style you're looking for.
- Try to communicate what it is you *do* want from the drum track, rather than what you *don't* want.

2.2. What is a free demo?

- I provide everyone with a free demonstration of how your track will sound with me playing on it.
- After receiving an MP3 of your track, I will record a 30-60 second portion (typically covering the first verse and chorus) and return it to you for your evaluation.

2.3. Session bitrates

- My default DAW session bitrate is 24/44.
- Let me know if your DAW session's bitrate is different from 24/44.

2.4. When can I expect to receive the drum tracks?

- I will always give an estimate of how long I will need to record the first take of a drum track.

- The timeframe can range from the same day to a week, depending on how booked up I am and how much rehearsal is required.
- I will notify you immediately if circumstances arise which will delay my recording of your drum track (illness, holidays, gear problems).
- I generally do not record at weekends (gigs/kit maintenance/personal practice time), but in busy periods I record at weekends to make up time.

2.5. How will I hear the first take?

- I will send the demo to you via email as an MP3.
- The demo will be a bouncedown of my drums with your music.
- The demo will be spiked with white noise every 15 seconds.

2.6. The first take is great, but can some corrections be made?

- Each take I record will be sent to you for your evaluation and feedback. I will make corrections to the drum track once you have clearly pointed out how and where the corrections need to be made.
- After I have made the corrections, I will send the corrected version of the drum track back for your approval.
- To save time on songs for which I need to create the drum track from scratch, I often record a rough first take. That way I save myself from using up valuable time recording a drum track, which may not be what you're looking for, up to first class standard. If corrections are needed, I will make the changes to the rough track and once you're happy, I'll record a final "master" take.
- I am always prompt with my communications and to a certain degree, I expect similar from you. I record on a single drumkit and juggle different sessions at the same time, which can make recording a drum track a difficult and long-drawn-out process if I don't receive feedback for days or weeks.

3. PRICING

- The price given on <http://www.drumtracksdirect.co.uk/prices.html> is applicable to the majority of drum tracks I record. However, it may be necessary to charge extra depending on a) the complexity/length of the song, b) the recording standard of your demo, c) how much creativity is required, d) overdubs/percussion or e) if you require multiple delivery formats.
- We will agree the price after we finish discussions about the drum tracks and you have informed me of your chosen delivery format(s).
- Sometimes I am asked to give a price for an EP or album of songs, based on me only having heard one or two songs. I will quote a "ballpark" price for the whole project, but reserve the right to increase it (or decrease it!) once the project is underway.

3.2. Discounts

- Discounts are applicable when I am sent a batch of two or more songs to record in one go.

- Discounts are not applicable if you wish to send only one song over to be recorded at a time. For example, if you are recording songs one at a time over a period of months.
- A discount may not be applicable for reasons of a) the complexity/length of the song, b) the recording standard of your demo, c) how much creativity is required, d) overdubs/percussion or e) if you require multiple delivery formats.

All the delivery formats are available in WAV or AIFF file types; please inform me of your choice of delivery format and file type.

- Mixed bouncedown. This is a bouncedown of the mixed drum track.
- Unmixed multitrack. This is the individual mic channel stems with no EQ or effects included.
- Mixed multitrack. This is the individual mic channel stems with EQ and effects included.

3.3. Multiple delivery formats

Often I am asked to provide an unmixed multitrack and a mixed bouncedown, with the bouncedown functioning as a guide for mixing.

- The initial price we agree will be reflective of whether you choose to have one, two or all three delivery formats.

4. PAYMENT

- Payments must be made in GBP.
- First-time customers must pay half the full track/project price up front in order to receive the first full take of a drum track. The remaining half is to be paid prior to delivery.
- Returning customers may pay the full project price in advance or prior to delivery.

4.1. PayPal

- All payments are to be made via PayPal to the address paypal@drumtracksdirect.co.uk. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up at <http://www.paypal.com/>.
- Please ensure that you have a functioning PayPal account. Failure to pay will result in non-delivery of your drum track.
- UK customers may also pay by bank transfer.

5. DELIVERY

5.1. Downloading the drum tracks

- Once I have received payment for a track, I will upload it to <http://www.drumtracksdirect.co.uk/> and send you an email with a link.

- Depending on the number of tracks I have recorded for your project and the delivery format you have chosen, I may not be able to deliver all the files immediately. Preparing multitracks for delivery is a lengthy process and can take up to an hour per song!
- I am aware that on occasion, customers have had trouble downloading files from <http://www.drumtracksdirect.co.uk/>. Alternate methods of delivery I use are MediaFire or Dropbox. You can invite me to a shared folder on Dropbox using the email address will@drumtracksdirect.co.uk.
- All multitrack deliveries are made as .zip files (<http://www.winzip.com>).

5.2. Deletion

- Delivery files will be removed from the server 30 days after the initial date of uploading.
- My DAW session files will be deleted 30 days after the initial date of uploading.
- Should you not claim your drum track within 30 days and still need it, you must pay full price for a re-recording.

6. TESTIMONIALS

At the conclusion of a successful session, I love to receive a testimonial for my list at <http://www.drumtracksdirect.co.uk/testimonials.html>. I will ask, but you are under no obligation to give one. It means the world to me to get positive feedback from musicians around the world. If you wish to give a testimonial, please email it to will@drumtracksdirect.co.uk.

7. NOT HAPPY?

I work hard to make sure that every musician who requests a drum track goes away happy but very, very occasionally things just don't work out. This is extremely rare and I see to it that any problems are solved amicably.

- Please explain to me as best you can (whether it be via text or voice communications) exactly what you are looking for from the drum tracks. If I feel after three or more takes for a song that you are unclear of what you are looking for, I may withdraw from the project.
- If you are not satisfied with my playing don't wish to pursue, don't be afraid to say so. I would rather hear from you that you are not happy, rather than never hearing from you again.

7.1. Refunds

Any drum tracks, which have been paid for in advance and haven't been completed, will be refunded.

8. ROYALTIES

- I do not claim royalties for projects where I am enlisted solely to compose and record the drum tracks.

- For projects where I am enlisted as a collaborator and am asked to take an active role in the songwriting, I may claim a songwriting credit and PRS royalties.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

9.1. What EQ and effects does Will use?

That's a secret I'm afraid. I spent the best part of a year researching, learning to tune, working on my ear and endlessly experimenting with EQ, room treatment and mic placement before I launched Drum Tracks Direct...and the process continues!

9.2. Can Will provide any feedback on my music?

I will provide constructive feedback if asked.

9.3. University projects

I am pleased to be contacted by students examining the burgeoning world of online recording as part of university coursework.

- Should you need a drum track, please inform me about your coursework and which extra material you require, so I can price your project accordingly.
- I can provide pictures of my recording setup and provide a gear list.
- I am willing to complete any questionnaires you may have.

9.4. YouTube videos

The drum tracks recorded for my showcase videos (<http://www.drumtracksdirect.co.uk/videos/>) are available to buy.

9.5. Can Will join my band?

I regularly play live in a number of bands and am unable to join any more, but I do deputise for other bands when their regular drummer is available. If you are based in the London area in the UK and are interested in having me deputise for your drummer, let me know. You will have to let me know well in advance, as it takes time to learn a set!