How to upload
your music to YouTube

A R A N L A V I
MIXTERING ENGINEER

Before uploading your music video to YouTube:

1. Make sure that the audio on your music video is playing in Stereo, many times we have received mono audio attached to the music video because of some wrong settings on the video editing software, please double check it, mono audio will make your great sounding stereo master sound bad and lifeless.
2. Compare the audio on your music video to the original master we have provided to make sure the sound quality on your music video is just as good as your original master, degraded sound quality can be a result of wrong encoding preferences on the video editing software.
3. Follow this guidelines to make sure you use the right upload encoding settings:

Recommended upload encoding settings for YouTube
Below are recommended upload encoding settings for your videos on YouTube.

Container: MP4
• No Edit Lists (or the video might not get processed correctly)
• moov atom at the front of the file (Fast Start)

Audio codec: AAC-LC
• Channels: Stereo or Stereo + 5.1
• Sample rate 96khz or 48khz

Video codec: H.264
• Progressive scan (no interlacing)
• High Profile
• 2 consecutive B frames
• Closed GOP. GOP of half the frame rate.
• CABAC
• Variable bitrate. No bitrate limit required, though we offer recommended bit rates below for reference
• Chroma subsampling: 4:2:0

Frame rate
Content should be encoded and uploaded in the same frame rate it was recorded.
Common frame rates include: 24, 25, 30, 48, 50, 60 frames per second (other frame rates are also acceptable).
Interlaced content should be deinterlaced before uploading. For example, 1080i60 content should be deinterlaced to 1080p30, going from 60 interlaced fields per second to 30 progressive frames per second.

Bitrate
The bitrates below are recommendations for uploads. Audio playback bitrate is not related to video resolution.

Recommended video bitrates for SDR uploads

To view new 4K uploads in 4K, use a browser or device that supports VP9.

Type	"Video Bitrate, Standard Frame Rate (24, 25, 30)"	"Video Bitrate, High Frame Rate (48, 50, 60)
2160p (4k)	35-45 Mbps	53-68 Mbps
1440p (2k)	16 Mbps	24 Mbps
1080p	8 Mbps	12 Mbps
720p	5 Mbps	7.5 Mbps
480p	2.5 Mbps	4 Mbps
360p	1 Mbps	1.5 Mbps

Recommended video bitrates for HDR uploads

Type	"Video Bitrate, Standard Frame Rate (24, 25, 30)"	"Video Bitrate, High Frame Rate (48, 50, 60)"
2160p (4k)	44-56 Mbps	66-85 Mbps
1440p (2k)	20 Mbps	30 Mbps
1080p	10 Mbps	15 Mbps
720p	6.5 Mbps	9.5 Mbps
480p	Not supported	Not supported
360p	Not supported	Not supported

Recommended audio bitrates for uploads

Type	Audio Bitrate
Mono	128 kbps
Stereo	384 kbps
5.1	512 kbps

Resolution and aspect ratio

YouTube uses 16:9 aspect ratio players. If you're uploading a non-16:9 file, it will be processed and displayed with either black bars on the left and right (pillar boxes) or black bars at the top and bottom (letter boxes) to make a 16:9 ratio in the player.