PANNING GUIDE FOR YOUR MIXES

Suggested Panning Positions

The table below suggests some commonly used positions. A clock face is used as the comparable analogy to panning, with 7 and 5 on the clock being hard left and hard right. Pan the instruments anywhere between these positions.

Instrument	Position	Comment
Kick 		Bass heavy instruments, such as the kick, should be kept near the centre as to not disrupt the balance of the track
Snare 		The snare reinforces the rhythm of a track and therefore should be set around the centre

Toms 		One tom to the left and the other to the right helps balance up the mix. Toms are best used on fills only. Beware if Toms are set too wide they can be very distracting and over-powering in the mix
Hi-Hat 		Hi Hats can be panned flexibly as they emit high frequencies and do not disrupt the balance too much
Overheads 		Overheads are best panned fairly wide but should never be too loud as to distract the listener
Bass Guitar 		Bass heavy instruments, such as the bass guitar, should be kept near the centre as to not disrupt the balance of the track

Rhythm Guitar 		If the rhythm guitar has been double track pan the two tracks hard left and hard right
Acoustic Guitar 		If the acoustic guitar has been double tracked or recorded in stereo pan the two tracks hard left and hard right
Piano 	Stereo  Mono 	For a stereo recording of the piano, pan the two tracks left and right. If recorded in mono try panning just off centre.
Strings 		Wide pads and strings help to really open up a track

Vocals 		Vocals should generally be kept dead centre, although there are many stereo techniques which should not be overlooked