



ORGANIZE YOUR SESSION. Editing is stressful if you don't know where everything is.



CREATE A ROUGH VOLUME BALANCE. It doesn't need to be perfect. You'll do the actual volume balancing once you're mixing.



"CLEAN" YOUR TRACKS. Cut out any silence in between sections that could have noise, pops, lip smacks, or bleed from other instruments.



ALIGN THE PHASE OF YOUR TRACKS. If you have any instruments that were recorded with multiple mics (like a drum set), make sure you've aligned their phase.



GROUP YOUR TRACKS. You don't want to do any editing on instruments that were stereo miked if they aren't grouped together.



FIX TIMING ISSUES IN YOUR RHYTHM SECTION. Your mix won't sound pro if the performance isn't locked in. Use either hand editing or elastic editing.



REPLACE DRUM HITS WITH SAMPLES. This is optional. If you feel like your drums need a little extra oomph, adding drum samples may help.



COMP YOUR VOCALS. Create the greatest performance possible by cutting together the best bits from all of your vocal takes.



TUNE YOUR VOCALS. You don't need to tune them too hard. Just make sure there aren't any distracting notes that take away from the performance.



FIX TIMING ISSUES IN YOUR VOCALS. You need to make sure your vocals are sitting "in the pocket." Use either hand editing or elastic editing.



TIME-ALIGN YOUR HARMONIES TO YOUR VOCALS. The tighter the harmonies, the better they will sit in the mix.



CREATE YOUR FADES. Any region that has been cut should have a very short fade or crossfade (e.g. 5ms) at its beginning and end.



BOUNCE EVERYTHING IN PLACE. Export all of the edits as their own audio files. That will save you massive amounts of CPU.