



Hey Smashed Customer, does your new project have a particularly long side? Here are our guidelines for creating the best sounding LP.

18-20 Minutes

For a 12" LP cut at 33 RPM, the optimal overall runtime per side is between 18-20 minutes.

21-22 Minutes

With audio that runs between 21-22 minutes in length per side, our lacquer cutting engineer may need to slightly lower the level, in order to get everything to fit. This may depend in part on the type of music/audio.

23+ Minutes

Audio that has a runtime of 23 minutes or more will most often require a significant lowering of the level in order for the cut to fit. Material at this length requires the grooves to be cut closer and may result in some issues with audio reproduction as well.

What Does This Mean? What Can You Do?

Essentially, lowering the level will result in a final pressed LP that will sound a little quieter. The remedy? Simply turning up the volume on your playback system.

For some folks, this is a minor issue with an obvious solution, while others might be bothered by the way that their record sits within a series of music that is being played (ie Live DJing or a digital playlist).

The other way to remedy this issue is to either decrease the overall runtime of the audio for that side of your LP - ie remove or edit a track. OR you could spread that material across Two LPs and have it cut at 45 RPM - or even 2xLPs at 33 RPM.

If you have any questions, we are happy to discuss these options further. Please reach out to us at info@smashedplastic.com.