

Column by Renzo van Riemsdijk (Masterenzo):

May I ask you something?

Now that we are all sitting at home in an ultimate attempt to defeat the corona virus I thought to myself: Can I find anything to write about that requires some involvement from my readers.

After contemplating with myself and Pippa, my cat I soon found the answer. Column number 39 has to an interactive one, a... what do you call it, a... poll!

Right, a list of smart questions you also run into while scrolling those *Instagram Stories*. Just because we can, because it's fun and most of all because I'm really curious if mastering lives among you. If mastering plays a role in your life, in either way.

Well here it is, my first poll. Five questions, each with different options.

I'd like to ask you to indicate what applies to you most. When in doubt, just give me multiple answers where the first answer is the most important to you.

1. *When does mastering come into view?*

- a) Before the recordings begin
- b) During the recordings
- c) My recording and mix doesn't sound as good as I hoped for. I'm aiming for mastering to save my recordings.

2. *Why would you choose for mastering?*

- a) Because the record has to sound great on every sound system everywhere
- b) Technique: It's nice to know my files are in good hands when it comes to my release on vinyl and digital streaming platforms
- c) On advice from others, it seems to be a necessary thing

3. *Why would you choose for a certain mastering engineer?*

- a) Through my network
- b) Based on what an engineer has mastered in the past
- c) I've heard this studio has a good reputation in mastering for vinyl
- d) I have a package deal with a recording and mix studio
- e) Google knows it all

4. *What is mastering worth to you?*

- a) I have a package deal with my recording/mix studio: it's cheap, easy and fast
- b) I master my own recordings, it can't be that hard
- c) Money doesn't play such an important role, I want quality
- d) The sky is the limit, I just emailed Bob Ludwig

5. *Does mastering gear play a role in your choice for a certain studio?*

- a) Yes I admit, I'm a gear nerd
- b) No, I trust the engineers' ears and experience

An example: Jane has supplied the following answers: 1a, 2c, 3abc, 4c, 5b. With the third question Jane chose for a, b and c. First her network plays a key role in choosing the right mastering studio. After that she looks at what that studio has mastered in the past and finally she wants to release her album on vinyl so that also plays an important role in her choice.

That was it. Masterenzo's first poll. You can leave the answers in the form below or via a DM on my [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) page. Of course you can also drop me an [email](#).

In next month's column I'll present you some results. It's fun, I look forward to it and I'm very much looking forward to your answers!

Renzo

Renzo (Masterenzo) is a Rotterdam based Dutch mastering engineer. As the owner of premium mastering studio Masterenzo Mastering he has worked for many independent artists like Voncken, The Legendary Orchestra Of Love and the John F Klaver Band. More info about mastering and about Masterenzo can be found on [the web](#).