BRISTOL VOICEOVER STUDIO · TECHNICAL SPEC

ACX audio submission requirements

What every file has to meet before it goes to ACX. Check it before you cut, and again before you upload.

SOURCE: ACX HELP CENTRE, LAST UPDATED 15 APRIL 2026 · CHECKED 8 OCTOBER 2026

THE NUMBERS

Every file, every time.

CHECK	ACX REQUIREMENT
Format	**MP3, constant bit rate (CBR), 192 kbps or higher, 44.1 kHz.** 256 or 320 kbps are also accepted.
Channels	**All files mono, or all files stereo.** Never a mix in one book.
Loudness	**−23 dB to −18 dB RMS**
Peak	**Below −3 dB**
Noise floor	**Below −60 dB RMS**
Room tone	**1 to 5 seconds** at the beginning and end of each file. Room tone spacing within a file must not exceed 5 seconds.
File length	**No longer than 120 minutes.** Split anything longer, and add a secondary header so the listener keeps their place.
Retail sample	**5 minutes or less**, ideally the first five minutes of the book. It must come from the audiobook and contain no explicit material.

Structure and content

- **One chapter or section per file,** uploaded individually. Opening and closing credits are their own files.
- **Part headings come in as their own file,** separate from the succeeding chapter.
- **Every file carries its section header,** spoken in the audio: “Prologue”, “Chapter 1” and so on. A missing header means a revision.
- **File names use standard US letters and numbers only.**
- **Opening credits** state the title, the author or authors and the narrator or narrators, matching the metadata and cover art.
- **Closing credits** must signal that the book is finished. ACX suggests: “You have been listening to…”, then the title, author and narrator, ending with “The End.”

0117 242 0136 · INFO@BRISTOLVOICEOVERSTUDIO.COM

THE SOUND

What ACX listens for.

- **Consistent from start to finish.** Levels, tone, noise, spacing and pronunciation should match across every file.
- **No extra sounds.** Take out plosives, mic pops, mouse clicks, excessive mouth noise and outtakes.
- **Human narration only.** Text-to-speech, AI or other automated narration is not allowed unless ACX has authorised it.

> **Quality assurance can reject a title**
> ACX may reject any title that doesn't meet these requirements, and the retail release can be delayed while it's fixed.

Our practice

- **Aim for the middle of each range,** not the edge. A file sitting right on a limit can tip over after a fix or an encode.
- **Check the MP3s,** not just the WAV masters. Encoding can move your peak.
- **Run every finished file through ACX's own audio analysis tool** before it goes anywhere: `acx.com/audiolab/playground`

Before you upload

FILES	
☐	MP3, CBR, 192 kbps or higher, 44.1 kHz
☐	Every file mono, or every file stereo
☐	One chapter or section per file; Part headings and credits in their own files
☐	No file longer than 120 minutes
☐	File names use standard US letters and numbers only
LEVELS	
☐	RMS between −23 dB and −18 dB on every file
☐	Peak below −3 dB on every file
☐	Noise floor below −60 dB RMS
☐	1 to 5 seconds of room tone at the start and end of every file
☐	No room tone gap longer than 5 seconds
CONTENT	
☐	Section header spoken at the start of every file
☐	Opening credits: title, author, narrator, matching the metadata
☐	Closing credits signal the end
☐	No plosives, pops, clicks, excess mouth noise or outtakes
☐	Retail sample 5 minutes or less, from the book, nothing explicit
☐	Every finished file checked with the ACX audio analysis tool

0117 242 0136 · INFO@BRISTOLVOICEOVERSTUDIO.COM